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Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts

No. 1436.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1855.

PRICE
FOURPENCE
Stamped Edition, 5d.

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—EVENING
COURSE of Twelve Practical Demonstrations on the USE of the MICROSCOPE in PHYSIOLOGY and CLINICAL MEDICINE, by LIONEL BEALE, M.B., Professor of Physiology.—These Demonstrations will be given at 27, Carey-street, on MONDAY and FRIDAY EVENINGS, from 8 to 10 p.m., commencing on Monday Evening, May 7th. Fee for the Course, 3s. 3d. For Syllabus apply to the Secretary's Office, King's College.
R. W. JELF, D.D., Principal.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY of LONDON.
—The FIRST SUMMER MEETING will take place at the Society's House, 21, Regent-street, on TUESDAY, May 8, from 12 to 5 p.m.

HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS for
the EXHIBITION of 1851 having granted the use of the Gardens behind GORE HOUSE and GROVE HOUSE to the HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, for the Garden Exhibition on WEDNESDAY, May 10, Notice is hereby given that Tickets, price 5s. each, are issuing at 21, Regent-street, till TUESDAY, May 15. On the day of Exhibition Tickets will be only procurable at GORE HOUSE, and at the rate of 7s. 6d. each.

ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY, Regent's Park.
—The FIRST EXHIBITION this Season of PLANTS, FLOWERS, and FRUIT, will take place on WEDNESDAY NEXT, May 10th.
Tickets of admission, to be obtained at the Gardens only, by orders from Fellows, or Members of the Society, price 2s., or on the day of the Exhibition, 7s. 6d. each.
Gates open at Two o'clock.

ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY, REGENT'S PARK.
The following EIGHT BOTANICAL LECTURES are to be delivered in the Museum, at Three o'clock on the Fridays in May and June.

BY DR. EDWIN LANKESTER.
May 11th. On General Physical Conditions that influence the Life of Plants.

18th. On Conditions of the Soil that influence the Distribution of Plants.

25th. On the Forms of Plants characteristic of particular districts of the Earth's Surface.

June 1st. On the Distribution of Plants used as Medicines, Food, and Luxuries, or employed in the Arts and Manufactures.

BY PROF. ROBERT BENTLEY.
June 8th. On Vegetable Textile Substances.

15th. On Materials used for Paper.

22nd. On Tanning and Dyeing Materials.

29th. On Gums, Resins, and Gum-resins.

Visitors are admitted to the Lectures by Tickets for the Course at one Guinea each person, or a Member of the Family of a Fellow of the Society at HALF GUINEA, to be obtained at the Gardens. The privilege of the Ivory Tickets does not extend to the Lectures.

J. DE C. SOWERBY, Secretary.

GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN, 14, Charles-street, St. James's-square.

This Society has been founded by several Noblemen and Gentlemen interested in Genealogical and Historical research for the elucidation and compilation of Family History, Lineage, and Biography, and for authenticating and illustrating the same.

For Prospectus, and further information, apply to the Secretary.

NORFOLK and NORWICH FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION.

President.
His Grace the DUKE of WELLINGTON.

Vice-Presidents.
The Mayor of Norwich.
The Right Hon. Lord Bishop of Norwich.

The Right Hon. Lord Londesborough.
The Right Hon. Lord Shaftesbury.
The Right Hon. Lord Stanley.

Sir E. H. K. Lacombe, Bart. M.P.
Sir S. Monson Peto, Bart.

Council.
John Barwell, Esq.
R. W. Blake, Esq.
Wm. Claburn, Esq.

Wm. Freeman, Esq.
J. S. Johnson, Esq.
Thomas Jordan, Esq.
George Middleton, Esq.

John Middleton, Esq.
The Exhibition of the above Society will open in May (this month), at the Exhibition Rooms, Broad-street, St. Andrew's, Norwich. Those Artists receiving the Society's Circular are requested to forward their Works if in London, to Mr. Gazez (the Society's Agent), 14, Charles-street, Middlesex Hospital, on or before the 10th of May. Those Artists not residing in London or its vicinity, who have received the Circular, are requested to forward their Works directed to the Secretary as above.

Artists will observe that the time has been extended from the 10th to the 10th of May.

The object of the Society is to promote a knowledge of the Fine Arts, and aid in the Sale of Works of Art. The Council has obtained the sanction of the Board of Trade for an Art-Union in connexion with the Exhibition.

CLAUDE L. NURSEY, Hon. Sec.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, LONDON,
W. HARLEY-STREET.
Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1833.

For GENERAL FEMALE EDUCATION, and for granting Certificates of Knowledge.

ARCHITECTURAL PUBLICATION SOCIETY.—The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Subscribers will be held on THURSDAY EVENING, the 10th of May, to receive the report of the Committee on the general affairs of the Society, the Account of Receipts and Expenditure, and for the Election of Officers for the ensuing Year.

The Meeting will be held at No. 18, LOWER GROSVENOR-STREET. The Chair will be taken at Eight o'clock precisely, by WILLIAM TITE, Esq. F.R.S.

The Receipt-Books for the current year, commencing 1st May, are now ready. WYATT PAPWORTH, Hon. Sec. 14A, Great Marlborough-street.

ARTISTS' BENEVOLENT FUND, for the
SOLID RELIEF of WIDOWS and ORPHANS.
Under the Patronage of THE QUEEN.
Established 1810. Incorporated by Royal Charter 1827.

President.
SIR JOHN EDWARD SWINBURNE, Bart.

Vice-Presidents.
His Grace the Duke of Sutherland, K.G.
The Earl of Ripon.

The Lord Ashburton.
Benjamin Bond Cabell, Esq. F.R.S.

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Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P.

Sir Robert Peel, Bart. M.P.
Benjamin Bond Cabell, Esq. F.R.S.

Decimus Burton, Esq.
E. W. Cooke, Esq. A.R.A.

Thomas S. Oake, Esq.
A. A. Goldsmid, Esq.

Robert S. Halford, Esq.
Tickets, 12 each. To be paid at the door, unless the Ticket is endorsed by a Steward. Dinner on the table at Half-past Five for Six precisely.

AUGUSTUS U. THISELTON, Secretary.
34, Great Queen-street.

ROYAL LITERARY FUND, Instituted 1790,
and incorporated by Royal Charter, 1818, for the Protection and Relief of Authors of Genius and Learning and their Families, who may be in Want of Distress.

Patron.—Her Most Gracious Majesty THE QUEEN.
President.—The Most Noble the MARQUESS of LANDOWNE.

The SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL DINNER of the Corporation will take place in FREEMASONS' HALL, on TUESDAY, May 23.

The LORD BISHOP of OXFORD in the Chair.

STEWARDS.
His Grace the Duke of Wellington.

The Earl of Dorchester.
The Lord Londesborough, K.C.H.

The Hon. C. S. Hardinge, M.P.
Richard Edward Arden, Esq.

Charles Austin, Esq. M.A. Q.C.
Francis Bennet, Esq.

The Ven. Archdeacon Bickersteth.
Henry Blackett, Esq.

Thomas J. Boyd, Esq.
John Boyd, Esq.

Benjamin Burke (Usher).
Ben. Bond Cabell, Esq. M.P.

Rev. Dr. Cardwell, Principal of St. Alban's Hall.
George H. Christie, Esq.

Rev. Dr. Cradock, Principal of Brasenose College.
Henry Croft, Esq.

James Crossley, Esq. F.S.A.
Rev. W. Cureton, M.A. F.R.S.

Sir Arthur Hallam, Bart. M.P.
Rev. Whitwell Elwin, M.A.

Oliver William Farrer, Esq.
Robert Fisher, Esq.

Francis Galton, Esq.
John Gould, Esq. F.R.S. F.L.S.

A. J. Beresford Hope, Esq. F.R.S.
Richard H. H. Wrightson, Esq.

Tickets, 21s. each, to be obtained from the Stewards; and from the Secretary, at the Chambers of the Corporation, 73, Great Russell-street.

OCTAVIAN BLEWITT, Sec.

BIRMINGHAM MUSICAL FESTIVAL, in
AID OF THE
FUNDS OF THE GENERAL HOSPITAL.

On the 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st days of AUGUST next.

MONTI'S LECTURES ON ANCIENT and MODERN SCULPTURE.—The First of these Lectures will be delivered on WEDNESDAY, the 10th of May.—Particulars can be obtained at Messrs. COLNAGHI'S, Pall Mall East.

BRIDGEWATER HOUSE.—Mr. J. M. SMITH
begs to inform the Public that the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH has kindly permitted the BRIDGEWATER GALLERY to BE OPENED EVERY SATURDAY, from 10 to 4 o'clock during the present Season. Tickets of Admission to be had every Tuesday and Wednesday, on application at Mr. J. M. SMITH'S, 137, New Bond-street.

THE GOVERNESSES' INSTITUTION, 34, Soho-square.—Mrs. WAGHORN, who has resided many years abroad, respectfully invites the attention of the Nobility, Gentry, and Principals of Schools to her Register of English and Foreign GOVERNESSES, TEACHERS, COMPANIONS, TUTORS, and PROFESSORS. School Property transferred, and Pupils introduced in England, France, and Germany. No charge to Principals.

A SOUND CLASSICAL, MATHEMATICAL, SCIENTIFIC and GENERAL EDUCATION is afforded on moderate Terms at the LICHFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Prospectus apply to the Rev. J. G. CURMING, M.A. F.G.S., Head Master.

EDUCATION.—40% PER ANNUM.—A
Professor at a First-Class Establishment at St. John's Wood, has the privilege (in return for his services) of introducing a YOUNG LADY, who will receive the same advantages as the other Pupils, and be instructed by the Masters at the above (which are little more than half the usual terms.—Address, immediately, 1, T. Post-office, 15, Charing-cross.

TO PARENTS.—A Married Clergyman,
without family, the Rector of a small and pleasantly situated parish, about an hour's ride by railway from London, is desirous of having THREE YOUNG GENTLEMEN to BOARD and EDUCATE. He has had much experience and considerable success in tuition. Brothers would be taken at moderate terms.—addressed to the Rector of H., care of Mr. C. H. May, 33, Gracechurch-street.

WESTBOURNE COLLEGE, BAYSWATER-ROAD.

Under the Patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishops of London, Winchester, and Lincoln, was OPENED AS A SCHOOL, for the Sons of Gentlemen on the 23rd inst. The neighbours and all interested in its success will be invited to be present at the Inauguration on Her Majesty's Birthday, 24th May, 1855.

Prospectus may be had on application.
G. MACKENZIE, M.A., Principal.
24th April, 1855.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD PROPRIETARY COLLEGE.

Head Master.—The Rev. THOMAS MARKBY, M.A., late Scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Classical Master in King's College School.

Second Master.—H. DEIGHTON, Esq. B.A., late Scholar of Queen's College, Cambridge.

An Exhibition of 500, open to Students intended for the Universities, or for the Legal and Medical Professions, and tenable for a year, will be annually adjudged. Students entering before Christmas next will be admissible to contend.

Each Proprietor has the right of nominating one Pupil at a time to the School at reduced fees.

* * * The Second Master RECEIVES BOARDERS at 94, Boundary-road.

EDUCATION PROTESTANTE à PARIS,
dans une famille, où l'on n'admet que trois ou quatre élèves, de 8 à 16 ans, pour les élever avec les fils de la maison.—Études classiques, modernes, dessin, leçons d'allemand, à Conversations journalières en allemand, si on le desire. Habitation agréable et très-saine dans les Champs-Élysées. Chambres particulières pour chaque élève. Vie de famille, soins maternels. S'adresser franco à M. H. de CALLIAS, 144, Avenue des Champs-Élysées, Paris.

COURS DE FRANÇAIS et de MUSIQUE
pour les DEMOISELLES.

Sous la Direction de MADAME LOFFET.
French Class for Beginners, French Conversation, Composition, Epistolary Style, &c., every Tuesday, at 11 o'clock.

Didto Advanced, ditto ditto, every Thursday, at 11 o'clock.
Piano Class for Beginners, Study and Reading of Music at Sight, Practice, &c., every Tuesday, at 12 o'clock.

Didto ditto, ditto ditto, every Thursday, at 12 o'clock.
Terms, per Quarter, of either Class, 12 s., payable in advance. Terms of the Summer Classes—1st of May to end of July.

Didto Winter Classes—1st of November to end of March.
Athenæum Institute, 1A, Albany-street, Regent's Park.

MISS POLE, having made arrangements for
the reception of EIGHT YOUNG LADIES as RESIDENT PUPILS, in addition to her Morning Pupils, has the honour of announcing that the Studies commenced April 4th, at her residence, 21, Circus, Bath, where the Plan of Study and Prospectus may be obtained.

MR. CHARLES WEISBECKER, Pianist,
begs to inform his Friends and Patrons that he has REMOVED to 6, Clarendon-road, Maida-hill.

LANDSCAPE PAINTING.—J. B. PYNE
is OPEN to RECEIVE a PUPIL, for either three or five Years, who shall be somewhat advanced in Landscape.—6, Camden-road Villas, Camden-town.

CHEMISTRY.—Mr. MEDLOCK, F.C.S.,
formerly Chief Assistant in the Royal College of Chemistry, continues to give PRIVATE INSTRUCTION to Gentlemen in all Branches of CHEMICAL SCIENCE. Particulars may be had at the Laboratory, 39, Great Marlborough-street, London.

TO LETTER-PRESS PRINTERS.—On Sale by PRIVATE TREATY. Several Printing Machines, Hydraulic Presses, large quantity of Type—Two Steam Engines—Two Boilers—a large quantity of Shafting—a Stereotype Foundry complete, and every variety of Article used in a Printing Establishment.

On application a Catalogue may be had, and further particulars given, at Mr. JOHN CASSELL'S, La Belle Sauvage, Ludgate-hill.

THE EXECUTORS of the late Mr. JOHN WILLIAMS, of Commerce House, 60, 61, 62, Oxford-street, and 3, 4, 5, Wells-street, beg respectfully to inform the Nobility and Public, that the whole of the large and valuable STOCK on the above premises will be SUBMITTED for SALE DAILY after Ten o'clock. As there has been no sale of the stock in connection with the firm of John Williams & Co. since its commencement 28 years ago, the present will be found worthy of notice, the stock of Silks and General Drapery being the largest in the Metropolis.

LEONARD & CO., AUCTIONEERS, BOSTON, UNITED STATES. Respectfully solicit Consignments of Books, Engravings, Paintings, and other articles of taste, or Literary Property, for Sale by Auction.

Sales by Auction.

Valuable Collection of Engravings, the Property of J. H. ROBY, Esq.

MESSRS. S. LEIGH SOTHEBY & JOHN WILKINSON, AUCTIONEERS of LITERARY PROPERTY and WORKS will SELL by AUCTION, at their House, 3, Wellington-street, Strand, on MONDAY, May 7, at 1 o'clock precisely,

A VALUABLE COLLECTION OF ENGRAVINGS,

the Property of J. H. ROBY, Esq.

May be viewed two days previous, and Catalogues had; if in the Country, on receipt of four postage stamps.

The Choice Collection of Engravings of the late HENRY ROGERS, Esq.

MESSRS. S. LEIGH SOTHEBY & JOHN WILKINSON, AUCTIONEERS of LITERARY PROPERTY and WORKS will SELL by AUCTION, at their House, 3, Wellington-street, Strand, on TUESDAY, 8th of May, and following day, at 1 o'clock precisely,

A SMALL BUT CHOICE

COLLECTION OF ENGRAVINGS

of the Dutch, Flemish, German, French, and Italian Schools, the Property of the late HENRY ROGERS, Esq.

May be viewed two days previous, and Catalogues had; if in the Country, on receipt of four postage stamps.

A very Valuable Collection of Greek, Roman, English, and Rare Anglo-Saxon Coins.

MESSRS. S. LEIGH SOTHEBY & JOHN WILKINSON, AUCTIONEERS of LITERARY PROPERTY and WORKS will SELL by AUCTION, at their House, 3, Wellington-street, Strand, on THURSDAY, May 17, and three following days, at 1 o'clock precisely,

A VERY VALUABLE

COLLECTION OF COINS,

Comprising a Series of most choice Roman Denarii, in Gold and Silver—First and Second Brass—a small collection of rare and finely preserved Greek Tetradrachms, &c.—many rare Anglo-Saxon Pennies, including Æthelred, Archbishop of Canterbury, rev. Offa, being one of the rarest Coins in the Anglo-Saxon Series—fine specimens of English and Foreign Coins in Gold and Silver, and a capital Cabinet by Roberts.

May be viewed two days previous, and Catalogues had; if in the Country, on receipt of six postage stamps.

The Valuable Library of the late Rev. A. H. MATTHEWS, of Waton-on-the-Green, Oxon., many years Librarian to the Bodleian.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, by C. RICHARDS, on MONDAY, May 7, and five following days, at his Sale Room, 104, High-street, Oxford, the LIBRARY, comprising most valuable Works in Theology, Classics, Topography, and Miscellaneous Literature.

Catalogues to be had of Mr. Newman, Bookseller, 235, High Holborn, London; Mr. Davis, Lib. Bookseller, Carey-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields, London; Mr. Kerslake, Bookseller, Bristol; and of the Auctioneer, Oxford.

Valuable Theological and Miscellaneous Library of the Rev. W. H. RICKETTS BAYLEY (removed from Harrow).

SOUTHGATE & BARRETT will SELL by AUCTION, at their Rooms, 22, Fleet-street, on TUESDAY, May 18, and two following days, the LIBRARY of the Rev. W. H. RICKETTS BAYLEY, amongst which will be found Camden's Britannia, by Gough, 4 vols. Russia—Encyclopædia Metropolitana, complete—Turner's Southern Coast, India proofs, 1 vols. large paper, extra—Fitzroy's Illustrations to Byron, 3 vols. large paper, calf—Winkles's Cathedral, 4 vols. large paper, India proofs—Ingram and Le Keux's Memorials of Cambridge and Oxford, 5 vols. large paper, calf—Elegant—Worsley-Bailey, 2 vols. large paper, extra—Fasciati's Lexicon, cura Bailey, 2 vols. Russia extra—D'Oyley and Mant's Bible and Prayer, 4 vols. large paper, blue morocco—Bacon's Works, by Basil Montagu, 17 vols. large and thick paper, scarce—Valpy's Delphi Classics, 141 vols.—Oxford English Classics, 63 vols. large and thick paper—Lodge's Portraits, 13 vols. subscription copy—Mansel's Shakespeare, 21 vols. Russia extra, best edition—Sir Walter Scott's Works, 55 vols. 8vo. the library edition—Walpole's Anecdotes of Painting in England, by Dallaway, 6 vols. large paper—Library of Anglo-Catholic Theology, 66 vols.—Library of the Fathers, 40 vols.—Bampton Lecture Sermons, 20 vols.—Hall's (B.) Works, 12 vols.—Bingham's Antiquities of the Christian Church, 9 vols.—Burton's Theological Works, 8 vols.—Comber's Works, 9 vols.—Walton and Cotton's Anglia, edited by Sir H. Nicolas, India proofs, 2 vols. large paper, green morocco—Lane's Arabian Nights, 3 vols. large 8vo.—Lardner's Cyclopædia, 8 vols.—Pictorial England, 5 vols.—Sumner's Works, 4 vols. calf extra and a great variety of Sermons by eminent Divines, and Modern Theology by all the celebrated Authors.

Miscellaneous Books.—Six days' sale.

MR. HODGSON will SELL by AUCTION, at his new Rooms, the corner of Fleet-street and Chancery-lane, on WEDNESDAY, May 9, and five following days (Sunday excepted), at half-past 12, a COLLECTION of VALUABLE BOOKS, including the Theological and General Library of the late ROBERT LEE, Esq. of Chichester, comprising amongst others—In Polio: Bowyer's Hume's England, fine plates, 10 vols. Russia—Stafford Gallery, 2 vols. In Quarto: Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of England and Wales, 6 vols.—ditto of Ireland, 3 vols.—The Art-Journal, 1849 to 1852, 4 vols.—Maudslayi's Botanical Garden, 10 vols.—Illustrated Books of Scenery—Voyages and Travels, &c. In Octavo: Valpy's Delphi Classics, comprising the Variorum Edition, 141 vols.—Grosz's Antiquities, 8 vols.—Hatty's European Scenery, 8 vols.—Lodge's Portraits, 13 vols.—Knight's Gallery of Portraits, 13 vols.—Penny Cyclopædia, 27 vols.—Collier's Shakespeare, 8 vols.—Knight's Pictorial Shakespeare, 4 vols.—Knight's Library Shakespeare, 12 vols.—Nichols's Literary Anecdotes and Literary History, 14 vols.—Howell's State Trials, 35 vols.—Sir William Jones's Works, 13 vols.—Layard's Nineveh, 3 vols.—Lane's Arabian Nights, 3 vols.—Cuvier's Animal Kingdom, 16 vols.—Library of Entertaining Knowledge, 43 vols. morocco—Curtis's Botanical Magazine, 48 vols.—Lightfoot's Works, 12 vols.—Dr. Doddridge's Works, 10 vols.—Whitfield's Works, 7 vols.—Newton's Church, 4 vols.—Bogue and Bennett's History of Dissenters, 4 vols.—Also the works of Hume, Smollett, Gibbon, Russell, Robertson, Rolin, Niebuhr, Hallam, Mahon, Swift, Pope, Johnson, Fielding, Scott, Byron, and other Standard Authors. The whole in excellent condition, and at a very low price. The Annuals, &c.—A Fracture-bedstead, by Amesbury—An Electrifying Machine, with Apparatus, &c.

To be viewed, and Catalogues had; if by post, on receipt of six stamps.

"The New Quarterly Review," the Copyright, Right of Publication, and Printed Stock.

PUTTICK & SIMPSON, Auctioneers of Literary Property, will SELL by AUCTION, at their Great Room, 191, Piccadilly, on FRIDAY, May 18, at 2 o'clock precisely, the COPYRIGHT, RIGHT of PUBLICATION, and BACK STOCK of "THE NEW QUARTERLY REVIEW," upon which large sums have been judiciously expended in securing such a successful position to lead to the success of the work, the exercise of ordinary care and attention, the enjoyment of a lucrative property; while the character of the publication is such as any literary man may be proud to possess, and with which it may be esteemed an honour to be connected.

Particulars will be sent on application to the Auctioneers.

Dramatic and Miscellaneous Library of the late O. SMITH, Esq., of the Adelphi Theatre.

PUTTICK & SIMPSON, Auctioneers of Literary Property, will SELL by AUCTION, at their Great Room, 191, Piccadilly, on THURSDAY, May 17, and two following days, the DRAMATIC and MISCELLANEOUS LIBRARY of O. SMITH, Esq., of the Adelphi Theatre, including many finely illustrated Works—a matchless collection, relating to Garrick and his Times—Books relating to English, Poetical, and Dramatic Literature—Collections for a History of the Stage, in 25 quarto volumes; the formation of which the result of many years' indefatigable labour and research of the late Mr. Smith; also, the Haslewood Collection—a few Prints, Drawings and Autographs—A Bust modelled by Flaxman, &c.

Catalogues will be sent on application.

The Library of a Gentleman, deceased, comprising Country Histories, and Valuable Works in General Literature.

PUTTICK & SIMPSON, Auctioneers of Literary Property, will SELL by AUCTION, at their Great Room, 191, Piccadilly, on MONDAY, May 21, and two following days, the LIBRARY of a well-known Biographer and Critic, deceased, comprising Country Histories, and Valuable Works in General Literature, amongst others, Omerod's Cheshire, 3 vols.—Manning and Bray's Surrey, 3 vols.—Hasted's Kent, 4 vols.—Hutchins's Dorset and Durham, 4 vols.—Platt's Staffordshire—Drake's York, Stuart and Revett's Athens, 4 vols.—Granger's Biographical Dictionary, extensively illustrated, 12 vols. morocco—Watson's Polyglott, with Castells's Lexicon, 5 vols.—Wood's Athens, 4 vols.—Archæologia, 29 vols. Russia—Rees's Cyclopædia, 45 vols. calf—Pinkerton's Voyages, 17 vols. calf—Art-Journal, complete to 1853—Dryden's Works, by Scott, 18 vols.—Scott's Novels, 4 vols.—Bentham's Magazine, complete to 1853—Jeremy Taylor's Works, 15 vols.—Library of the Fathers, 37 vols.—Stirpe's Works, 13 vols. large paper—together with numerous Works in History, Biography, Voyages and Travels, &c.

Catalogues will be sent on application.

Large Collection of Prints and Drawings.

PUTTICK & SIMPSON, Auctioneers of Literary Property, will SELL by AUCTION, at their Great Room, 191, Piccadilly, on FRIDAY, May 25, and following day, a LARGE COLLECTION of PRINTS and DRAWINGS, comprising esteemed Works of celebrated Masters in all schools, from the period of Marco Antonio to the present day.

Catalogues will be sent on application.

Miscellaneous Collection of Objects of Science, Curiosity and Natural History.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will SELL by AUCTION, at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on FRIDAY, 11th of May, at 1 o'clock precisely, PHILOSOPHICAL INSTRUMENTS and SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS, including Telescopes, Microscopes, Barometers, Thermometers, Lenses, Electrical Machines, Model of a Steam-Engine, Lathes, Pair of Duelling Pistols, Accordion, the Mahogany and other Cabinets of Minerals, and a large quantity of Miscellaneous Engraved Cornelian, Old Spanish, Gold and Silver Etwees and Boxes, and 10 Eagle-headed Swords, captured at Bomarsund, the Property of a Gentleman, deceased.

May be viewed on the day prior, and Catalogues had.

Telescopes and other Astronomical Instruments of the finest quality by the most Eminent Makers, the Property of the Rev. G. GILBERT, of Beverly.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will include in the SALE by AUCTION, at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on FRIDAY, 11th of May, A 3-feet Altitude and Azimuth Instrument, by Troughton & Simms—a 7-inch ditto, by Fayer—a 5-feet astronomical Telescope, by Troughton & Simms—with 28-inch object-glass, and mounted on an Equatorial Stand—a Telescope by Cary, with 25-inch object-glass by the elder Tully—a Telescope by Ramsden, with 25-inch object-glass, and 15-inch reflecting Circle by Troughton & Simms—an Astronomical Regulator by Arnold & another by Arnold & Dent—a Chronometer by Cope—and other Instruments of the highest quality.

May be viewed on the day prior and morning of Sale, and Catalogues had.

Lathes.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will include in his SALE by AUCTION, at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on FRIDAY, 11th of May, an 8-inch English ROSE ENGINE, by Holtzapffel, with most expensive Chucks and Apparatus, and a 7-inch Screw Cutting Lathe.

May be viewed on the day prior and morning of Sale, and Catalogues had.

Important and very Valuable Collection of Oil Paintings, by Old Masters, at Singleton House, Singleton Brook, Higher Broughton.

MR. CAPES has the honour to announce, that he has received instructions from JOHN WILSON, Esq., who is retiring from business, in consequence of ill health, to SELL by AUCTION, without reserve, on WEDNESDAY, May 16, at 10 o'clock in the morning, at his residence, Singleton House, Higher Broughton, near Manchester, about FIFTY Important and Valuable PAINTINGS, by Ancient Masters; comprising the Horrors of War, by Rubens, the picture which excited much attention when publicly exhibited in London a few years ago—St. Jerome, by Carlo Cignani—a most superb copy of Correggio's finest work at Parma—a River Scene in Holland, by Van der Meer—a most magnificent and beautiful picture, by the School of the Venetians, a very important and finely coloured picture, and in a beautiful state—The Marriage of Rebecca, in a noble landscape, by Claude—Bunuel's and the Elders, by Don Michelangelo—a marvellously fine example of this favourite artist—The Good Samaritan, by Caracci—a very grand and solemn picture—The Holy Family, by Paul Veronese, remarkable for the depth and beauty of its colour—the Entombment, by Bassano, a work which for richness of colour, vigour of handling, and pictorial power, can only be equalled in the present day by Linell's—A Magdalen, by Schiavone, a most elegant and delicate example of the Venetian School, by Rubens and Vandyke, a highly esteemed and valuable picture, from the collection of the late Major Sir—The Woman taken in Adultery, by Caravaggio, a very grand work, exhibiting great attention to light and shadow—The Grand Canal at Venice, by Canaletto, perhaps one of the finest examples of the man to be met with, and in perfectly pure condition—The Marriage at the Louvre—Christ's Agony in the Garden, by Andrea Schiavone, an extraordinary example of rich and powerful colour—Christ Driving the Money-changers from the Temple, and Christ at the Pool of Bethesda, by Paul Panini, two exceedingly fine pictures, in a very pure state—Virgin and Child, by Titian—The Angel by Michael Angelo, with several by Cypri, Sir Peter Leys, Rubens, Vandyke, Velasquez, Frank Hale, and other desirable specimens by various artists of renown.

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REVIEWS

Memoirs of the Court and Cabinets of George the Third, from Original Family Documents. By the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, K.G. Vols. III. and IV. Hurst & Blackett.

THE present volumes of the "Grenville Papers" exhibit the same features as the former portions of the series. The general reader is entertained, and the reader for historical purposes is enlightened. It is certainly to be regretted that all these literary treasures from Stowe were not published in one continuous series, and subjected to most careful editorial revision. But of their value and importance, even in their present form, there cannot be two opinions.

The family of "the Grenvilles" exhibited so many phases that it is necessary to attend closely to their political relations while reading any volume of these papers. As a family and political connexion, "the Grenvilles" stand out in parliamentary history as being neither courtiers (in the ordinary sense) nor popular leaders. They aimed at engrossing official influences and exalting their own family; but in doing so, they were often compelled to exhibit what in modern language would be called "liberal" ideas. Their political ambiguity of purpose detracts seriously from their moral dignity; but there was a sustained energy in their exertions which extorts respect for their abilities. Though they never produced a single man of genius, or a first-class historical character, yet two Premierships, the Viceroyalty of Ireland, the Speakership of the House of Commons, a Chancellorship of the Exchequer, a Secretaryship for Foreign Affairs, the Chancellorship of Oxford University, a ducal coronet, and sundry other aristocratic distinctions, show how successfully they disputed the prizes of public life with "the great families" of the last and present century.

The two volumes now before us range from 1800 to 1810,—a period during which "the Grenvilles" occupied a peculiar and almost an equivocal position. The Union with Ireland introduced into English politics "the Catholic Question"; and the Grenvilles followed upon it the course of Mr. Pitt. After his decease, as is evident from these papers, they felt themselves much embarrassed, not only by a certain incompatibility between them and the Grey Whigs, but also by the rise in power, at the other side, of Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Canning. A recollection of the latter fact supplies the key for deciphering the letters in this correspondence, the reticence of which is often significant.

The letters about the "Irish Union" disappoint us, but the interest of the subject has been exhausted by the 'Castlereagh Papers'; and in some other portions of these volumes we feel that the previous perusal of the diaries of Lord Malmesbury, Sir Samuel Romilly, Mr. Wilberforce, and Mr. Horner had anticipated the effect of many of their statements. But there are abundant revelations of interest to arrest attention in many of these papers. On the characters of George the Fourth and the Duke of Wellington there are some very valuable letters. In Court scandals, the affairs of the Duke of York and Mrs. Clarke are brought under notice; and in what we may designate as public scandals, the "horrors of routine" receive abundant illustration in the letters about the Walcheren Expedition, and on the Peninsular War. We shall first notice the last of these interesting topics.

Thus, the following letter is not from "Our

Own Correspondent," and its post-mark is not "Crimea." It is dated from "Lisbon, September 10th, 1809." It is written by Admiral Berkeley, and addressed to the late Duke of Buckingham (then Earl Temple).—

"I really believe there never was so infamous a proceeding as Cuesta's towards Sir A. Wellesley, as owing to either his incapacity, age, or treachery, the campaign has terminated more as if we had sustained a defeat than gained a victory; and our commissaries are equally to blame, as really, in every part of that department, such ignorance and delay appears, that it makes my heart ache. I have, however (in all which relates to their transactions with me), made formal complaints, and I hope it will show how very wrong a principle that department has been acting upon. Twice has the army been stopped for money, and twice for provisions. The horses starved, while ships, loaded with hay and oats from England enough to furnish all the cavalry were rotting and spoiling in the Tagus. The medical staff is as bad—as our army were dying away for want of medicines, while more than sufficient were in ships in the river. The medical staff as well as the commissariat, instead of being with the army, are in Lisbon, keeping their houses, horses, and ———s, and the Commissary-General, at Cintra, taking his diversion."

—And elsewhere, in the same letter, we read:—

"I have saved the army's starving, by sending for bullocks from Barbary, and by the same channel have supplied three hundred mules; a responsibility I was obliged to take on myself, as, notwithstanding I urged the Commissary-General upon the point, I could not get him to stir. But Sir Arthur Wellesley has thanked me for my interference and approval of the measure."

Many more passages might be quoted; but, at the present time, we peruse, with painful interest, the proofs of the criminations and recriminations about the various "departments" in these pages. On the calamity of Walcheren, and the retreat of Sir John Moore, abundant evidence is shown how careful people ought to be in charging particular individuals on *ex parte* statements. Thus, the conduct of Sir Arthur Wellesley, in relation to Cintra, exposed him to great odium. There are some admirable private letters from him, addressed to the Marquis of Buckingham, from which we shall quote.—

"I am accused of being the adviser of persons over whom I had no control, and who refused to follow my advice, and am made responsible for the acts of others. The real share which I have had in the transactions, which, in my opinion, have deservedly incurred the displeasure of the public, cannot be known till they will be inquired into; and in the meantime, Sir Hew Dalrymple has left the Government and the public so completely in the dark respecting the military expediency of allowing the French to evacuate Portugal, that that part of the question, which is the only one in which I am involved, is as little understood as the rest. I know of no immediate remedy for these difficulties of my situation, excepting patience and temper; and I thank God that the undeserved abuse which has been heaped upon me has not altered the latter."

—He continues; and we quote a sentence giving us the Duke's opinion upon the uses and the fairness of "inquiry":—

"In respect to the conduct of my case, I have determined that I will publish nothing; nor will authorize the publication of anything by others. This forbearance is particularly incumbent upon me, as the whole subject must be inquired into. I have also determined that I will not involve others in scrapes because they differed in opinion with me."

* * I will endeavour not to bring others (viz., Sir Harry Burrard) into a scrape, not only out of regard to him, but because I think it fatal to the public service to expose officers to the treatment which I have received, and to punishment for acting upon their own military opinions, which opinions they may fairly entertain."

There are great nobleness and decision in

the following passage, taken from a subsequent letter, but still referring to the Convention of Cintra:—

"I signed it, notwithstanding my objections to it, because I would not, in the face of the whole army, set myself up in opposition to the commander of the forces on the very day he joined his army. His task was sufficiently difficult, without adding to it that additional difficulty. I agreed with him upon the main point, viz., the evacuation by the French troops. My refusal to sign would not have prevented the execution of the instrument, and would only have tended to raise my character, at the expense of others; and probably at that of not a little outrage and want of discipline in the army. These were my motives."

Again, from a private letter of Sir Arthur Wellesley's to Lord Temple, we observe the vast difficulty of a contemporary public in getting at the actual relations of official individuals behind the scenes. Alluding to Sir Harry Burrard, the letter says:—

"I proposed to him the pursuit with the left wing, and the march to Torres Vedras with the right; to which he objected, and desired me to halt the pursuing troops on a neighbouring height. You will observe that I then reported to him the circumstances of the action, and he as my commanding officer reported them to the Secretary of State, and certainly never mentioned to him that he had stopped the pursuit of the enemy. This circumstance would probably not have been known, if the discussion between Sir H. and I on the field of battle had not been heard by above twenty officers; but it has not been, and cannot be, in any manner stated officially. Under these circumstances, Government may have sufficient reasons to remove him from his command, not to trust him, and not to employ him again; but there are none for inquiring into his conduct."

Never had any man more difficulties to contend with than Wellesley,—and we see how little was expected from him by Lord Grenville. Thus, Lord Grenville, the shrewdest man in the connexion, writes to Lord Buckingham:—

"I return you Sir Arthur's letters—they make but an indifferent case for him, and I am sorry to see that public opinion runs more and more against him. There is something quite inexplicable about his protest. Are we to suppose it was all pure invention?"

And even after the glorious exploit of the battle of Talavera, here is the disparaging way in which Lord Grenville referred to the ablest Englishman then living.—

"I now suppose these troops will be sent to Spain; but, I trust, not under Lord Chatham. *Not that I think our friend Sir Arthur has given this year any very favourable specimen of his talents, except in the field, and in the actual day of battle. For if we were to admit the truth of his boast of having beat double his force, the next question must be, how came you into a situation where you could be attacked by twice your numbers? Still Wellesley is a soldier, and a man (though very rash) yet of considerable talents. What the other is, we both know.*"

In Lord Grenville's opinion, the strategic qualities necessary for a campaign were wanting in Sir Arthur Wellesley! In our review last year of the 'Memoirs of King Joseph' [*Athen.* No. 1396], we showed how astonished Napoleon was at the exploits of the English General at Talavera with his handful of troops. The Editor of these volumes asserts that it was to Lord Castlereagh the country was indebted for discovering the talents of Sir Arthur Wellesley, and supporting him. "Routine" was broken through, as Sir Arthur was *only* a Major-General. But let us see how the system worked in those days. Thus, under date of September 4, 1808, Mr. Thomas Grenville wrote to Lord Buckingham about how the Marquis should provide for his second son, Lord George (afterwards Lord Nugent). He says:—

"In former times, a noble younger brother with less talents than George possesses, might much more

easily have looked to a provision by office or sinecure, than he can now hope to do."

—So it would appear that the army ought to be selected for "George's provision in life." We shall extract the whole passage.—

"Mr. Bankes's Committee is much more popular than many people suppose it to be, and I am very much mistaken if the temper of the times will not be such as to produce regulations very unfavourable to those views which appear to be forward in your hopes respecting George's provision in life, arising from any parliamentary pursuits, and from those particular objects which are to supply the place of a regular profession. The army, on the other hand, is increasing in estimation; and the protracted state of warfare which must be looked to in Europe is likely to add to that estimation in this as well as in every other country; and when you look at Lord Moira, Lord Mulgrave, Lord Chatham, Lord Cornwallis, &c., it may surely be safely said, that talents less than those which George possesses offer from the military profession a fair and open road to the greatest situations which this country has to give."

We shall not stay to dwell on the sentence, "those particular objects which are to supply the place of a regular profession." The logic of the letter appears to be, because mediocrities, like Lord Mulgrave and others, do well in "the army," it would be a capital provision for life for "George." So, also, in another letter we get a peep at the use made of the Royal Navy. The Marquis of Buckingham writes to Lord Bathurst,—the italics in the passage being our own:—

"You will easily believe the anxiety with which I have considered fully the situation of our brother, George Berkeley, and the whole of our discussions respecting him. I am most unaffectedly very unhappy to have misunderstood you on the point which I had considered so far settled in your view of the subject, as to offer the means of assisting him by our advice on a matter so deeply interesting to him, to his dear wife, and to both of us. * * I shall write by my friend Sir J. Warren to him, and shall certainly press him to avail himself of Lord Mulgrave's attention to your suggestions, by which the frigate is left at his disposal at Bermuda, so as to ensure to dear Lady Emily every advantage, both of time and of convenience."

What follows is even still more significant of the system in which "dear Lady Emily" was so carefully considered.—

"I am in hopes that we may urge the Admiral, from considerations of her health, to delay his voyage from Bermuda till late in February, particularly if Warren does not sail till the 20th of December—and I see so many political reasons that may make it wise for Government so to detain Warren, till they can judge further on some of the important points now pending, that I am inclined to hope that what I wish, from motives personal to Berkeley, may in reality take place from considerations of a very different description."

The letter contrasts strangely with our first extract, describing the neglect of the troops at Lisbon.

We proceed to cite some of the letters which throw additional light on the character of George the Fourth. Many have thought that the disclosures about the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, in the two preceding volumes of these papers, narrated the most disgraceful things ever known of these princes. We allude to their heartless conduct during the awful malady of their royal parent in 1787. When the Duke of York got into the grave scrape about Mrs. Clarke, let us see the depth of the fraternal affection of his elder brother. Lord Temple (the late Duke of Buckingham) wrote to his brothers after paying a visit (by appointment) at Carlton House, when the Prince of Wales said—

"That his opinions were that his brother had brought all this upon himself, that he had behaved shabbily to the woman to whom he had promised an allowance which, small as it was, he had not paid;

that a 'gentleman's word was sacred, and that he could not talk of his honour as a prince, who could not keep his promise as a gentleman'; that he had no wishes upon the subject, as he was determined not to interfere one way or the other. He had not been consulted either by the King, the Duke, or the Ministers; and therefore he would not meddle in the matter. He was no party to the Duke's irregularities; he never knew any of the women with whom his brother had been connected; he disliked such 'society'—*chacun à son goût*—and he thought his taste was better than the Duke's."

After much more to the same effect, Lord Temple told the Prince of Wales—

"I hereupon ventured to express my joy that he had determined to adopt the line he had suggested to me, that the times were tremendous, and that, however harsh it might appear to his ears, as an honest man I must tell him, the opinion of the country was taken as to the Duke, and that its eyes were now turned upon him; that if he pursued the line he had mentioned, he would be carried to the throne upon the shoulders of his people; whereas, if he joined in saving the Duke, provided his guilt appeared manifest, my firm opinion was, that he would have a struggle."

—"The line he had mentioned,"—that is, to remain perfectly neuter. The letter then goes on, and makes us think of the awful lectures read by old George Grenville to George the Third, in his younger days. The tone of the Prince about public opinion is worthy of notice.—

"Of all this he said he was aware, but he could not rise upon his brother's fall, that vigorous measures must be resorted to, for the purpose of keeping the people in order, and mentioned the old Sedition Bills. I told him he must pardon me, such measures could not, and must not be resorted to. The tranquillity of his people depended upon parliament doing its duty, and his forbearance. He said that was true, and, however bitter the pill, it must be swallowed, but that the debating clubs must be kept in order. The occasion of the whole of this cry, was Mrs. Clarke's becoming the instrument of the printers against whom prosecutions were pending on the Duke's behalf, and that Wardle, Folkestone, and Whitbread were at the bottom of the conspiracy."

—And further on we get fresh revelations of the cold duplicity of the Prince.—

"He then put an end to the conversation by the warmest expressions of kindness to myself, by authorizing me to say, that he meant to keep an exact and a *bond fide* neutrality, but expressing his hope that it would be recollected that the attack was made upon the throne, and that an attack upon the throne was an attack upon the vital principles of the country."

Observe the pledge to "neutrality,"—and the admission at the same time of "the attack upon the throne." But the following passage is even worse, and reminds us of the revelations in the antecedent volumes. Lord Temple writes:—

"The Prince sent me word, at five o'clock yesterday evening, that the King had sent to him in great agony of mind, upon the subject of his neutrality, which he represented as condemnation, and had urged him to re-consider his determination; that the Queen had written to him to say the King's health and life depended upon the result, as well as the honour of the family; that in consequence of this, the Prince had determined to make no change in his determination, except to send down one of his household, viz., McMahon to vote for the Duke, to prove that he did not mean to condemn the Duke; but that all the other votes, Duke of Norfolk and Duke of Northumberland, &c. &c., were to remain as before. Such is the nature of the man!"

Of the excitement of public opinion, and the parliamentary paralysis consequent on Walcheren, the Corunna retreat, the Cintra Convention, and the "Mrs. Clarke" scandals, there are various proofs in these letters. The following letter from Mr. Fremantle is a good picture of the period.—

"All power and influence of Perceval in the House is quite gone by; he speaks without authority

and without attention paid to him; and Canning has made two or three such rash declarations that he is as little attended to. You may judge the situation of the House when I tell you we were last night nearly three-quarters of an hour debating about the evidence of a drunken footman, by Perceval suggesting modes of ascertaining how to convict him of his drunkenness. Charles Long, near whom I was sitting, telling me at the time what a lamentable proof it was, of the want of some man of sense and judgment to lead the House. There is no government in the House of Commons. You may be assured the thing does not exist, and whether they can ever recover their tone of power remains to be proved; at present, Mr. Croker, Mr. D. Brown, and Mr. Beresford are the leaders."

And elsewhere the same writer describes the torture of the Royal Family at Windsor.—

"Every part of the royal family at Windsor, excepting the King, is overwhelmed with despair at the Duke of York's business. The Queen very ill, and two of the Princesses dying. The King is said to bear it very firmly; but I have reason to believe he is indignant at his Ministers for having suffered it to come forward at all. The Duke of York, I am told by those who have seen much of him since, is quite sunk under it."

Those were, indeed, most painful times. Many of our readers must often have heard their older relatives talk of the grievous results to public morals that arose from the frequent obstruction of domestic scandals in the highest places in the land. Ample illustrations of the injurious results of these scandals are to be found in the work before us.

There is less about Nelson than we expected in these volumes, and all the Grenvilles, we observe, are very cold in their acknowledgments of naval and military services. On Nelson's grand exploit at Copenhagen we get some interesting views. Writing to the Marquis of Buckingham, Captain Fremantle shows us what a difficult and dangerous measure was the storming of Copenhagen.—

"Since I wrote you, we have had two or three different plans for attacking Copenhagen, and I think whenever we pass Cronsborg Castle, we may probably have to alter it again. I told you in my last, that my private opinion was, that we ought to pass Cronsborg, take up a position off the Island off Möen, and from thence form our mode of operations. I confess I feel the difficulty of explaining exactly all that *has passed* on this business, which I hope may yet succeed."

He then says—"Lord Nelson is very sanguine, and will certainly undertake something." He then gives a sketch of Nelson's plan; and in a subsequent letter records how it was carried out.—

"For our action, I shall refer you to Lord Nelson's letter, which, in confidence, he *dictated* to me on board the 'St. George' while I wrote it; but to make the business more clear, I inclose a draft of the situation of the Danish ships and ours as opposed to them. The fatigue of firing so long was great, but our unexhausted good fortune in the Ganges is surprising. I felt much flattered at being appointed second to Lord Nelson, as well as to the Commander-in-chief. We followed the Elephant, and I dropt my anchor in the spot Lord Nelson desired me from the gangway of the Elephant. In passing the line, my master was killed, and my pilot had his arm shot off, so that I was obliged to carry the ship in myself, and I had full employment on my hands. The Monarch and Defiance are dreadfully cut up, as they were exposed to the Crown batteries; the Bellona got on shore on both sides the Channel, and, notwithstanding all that may be said, never could fire a shot with effect. They, however, did fire, and her loss of men was principally occasioned by the bursting of two guns on the lower deck, which has hurt the ship much. I visited Sir Thomas Thompson with Lord Nelson this morning, and he is doing as well as can be expected. The Russell got on shore and could do nothing; Agamemnon totally *hors de combat*; so that we were but nine

sail of two-decked ships. I consider all this business as Nelson's, to whose ability and address we are certainly indebted for a conquest instead of a defeat."

But the hazard run was enormous, as even the writer frankly confesses.—

"At this time, Nelson put into my hand a letter, which he meant to send immediately to the Prince in a flag of truce, threatening to burn every ship captured if the batteries did not cease firing. At this time, he was aware that our ships were cut to pieces, and it would be difficult for to get them out. We cut our cables and ran out. The ships were so crippled, they would not steer. The Elephant and Defiance both ran on shore. We ran on shore, and the Monarch; and at this period when the batteries had not ceased firing, we counted no less than six sail of the line, and the *Désirée* fast on shore. Luckily we had to contend with an enemy much beaten, and who did not take advantage of our situation; otherwise all those ships must have been lost."

And the following is interesting.—

"I was much pleased at Lord Nelson's manner on board the Elephant, after we ceased firing; he thanked me before everybody on the quarter-deck, for the support I had given him, &c. I have to attribute our good fortune in losing so few men to the bad gunnery of our opponents, and beating them most completely in less than an hour. Lord Nelson, with whom I breakfasted this morning, has just been giving me an account of his reception on shore, when he went to treat with the Prince. He was hailed with cheers by the multitude, who came to receive him at the water-side, and 'Viva Nelson' resounded until he got to the palace, much to the annoyance, I believe, of His Royal Highness and his ministers. During dinner, the people were allowed to come in to look at him, and on going down to the boat, again he was saluted the same way."

But what follows in another letter may be worth attending to, and suggests considerations not without importance when our eyes are turned to our fleet in the Baltic.—

"The ships begin to grow short of water; and it strikes me, that had we been under the necessity of proceeding to the Gulf of Finland, we should have been much straitened for it. I anchored yesterday, with leave, off the Small Island, on rocks of Christiansö, or Enthalmar, which lie to the northward of Bornholm. The seven rocks together, do not cover much more than a mile; but should it ever be found necessary to send a fleet of men-of-war in these seas, we ought to possess ourselves of this island, as the tops of them are full of water preserved in tanks, which by conductors may be brought down to the boats. Besides which, two of these rocks are so near each other, as to make a harbour for small vessels, and on occasion would serve to heave down a seventy-four gun ship—there being twenty-six feet of water."

Here, for the present, we must stop. Our extracts sufficiently show the high interest belonging to these volumes. We may return to them next week for some curious illustrations of some of the leading Parliamentary characters mentioned in them.

The Story of the Legion of Honour. By W. Blanchard Jerrold. Routledge & Co.

Mr. Jerrold argues, from the history of Napoleon's Legion of Honour, in favour of a similar institution in England. He would have it named the Order of Victoria, to be distributed as the reward of civil and military merit throughout all ranks of society. There is, perhaps, too much inclination on the part of such advocates to imitate the character and details of the First Consul's plan,—which was essentially adapted to France, but would require numerous modifications before it could be suited to the necessities or tendencies of England. The decorations of the Legion of Honour, though not conferred on soldiers only, derive their historical brilliance from the *souvenirs* of Napoleon's army,—from the memorable fields on which so

many gallant warriors of the Empire deserved and claimed them. Should it at any time seem good in the sight of the powers that be, to establish an Order for Great Britain, equal in dignity to the ancient military ribbonds and stars, more liberal than the Bath,—which is reserved for public servants,—and more honourable than simple Knighthood,—which appears to be reserved for provincial mayors,—the scheme will not succeed unless it implies a desire to place Literature, Art, and Science—as represented by their most distinguished Professors—on the highest levels. Such honours may, by cynics, be counted as toys—but practically they signify public recognition; and for what but public recognition, which means fame, do the emulous students of Letters, Arts, and Sciences contend? But it is necessary that the Order of Merit should not be created as a military honour, to be conferred occasionally, condescendingly, and exceptionally, as the mark of civil distinction.

However, it was well to revive the story of the Legion of Honour. Mr. Jerrold tells it neatly and pleasantly, interweaving his argument with his narrative, and setting a strong plea for the inferior military ranks, though this, as we think, should be discussed as a separate question. Napoleon designed his order for Military or Imperial purposes;—the founders of a similar institution here would act in another spirit, and with different objects. Mr. Jerrold brings this point strongly into the light.—

"Towards the end of March, 1805, Napoleon proposed to the crowned heads of Europe the exchange of the Grand Eagle for their respective Orders. The King of Spain hastened to return the Golden Fleece; the King of Portugal sent the Order of Christ; after some hesitation, the King of Prussia forwarded his Black Eagle to the conqueror."

He proposed to the Austrian Court for the Order of St. Stephen, in exchange for his Grand Eagle, and was refused. To Russia he made no offer, for the present; and none, of course, to England; but it was not long before the Czar bartered his Order of St. Andrew for the new decoration;—and, as we have lately seen, the Garter is at last worn by a ruler of France.

The English Order of Merit should not be created as a political coin, to be used as Napoleon used the decorations of his Legion: it should be all that Mr. Jerrold suggests in the following paragraph—and more:—

"Thus, should an Order of Merit find a place among the liberal institutions of England, the hand that distributes its honours must be guided by an eye as comprehensive as that of Napoleon. Its chancellor must be of no party, of no sect; he should represent no government; his place should be beyond the control of party warfare, and his grand council should be drawn from every section of the nation. It should include, not simply political men, but also men eminent as authors, professors of science, painters, and manufacturers. The lower grades of the order should be freely distributed to men of promise, not simply to men of ripe experience, who have accomplished all the promise of their life."

It should be more than Napoleon's Legion, because Napoleon refused it to the younger Lafayette to avenge the contumely of the elder.

A Narrative of the Cruise of the Yacht Maria among the Feroe Islands, in the Summer of 1854. With Illustrations. Longman & Co.

To those who are always on good terms with the sea, or who are able, after a few hours of seasoning, to strike a balance betwixt *Dolores* and *Delicia Maris*, a yacht voyage must be one of the "highest expressions" of pleasure in travel that can be found. The yacht, to make the joy perfect, should number among its crew, cook, draftsman, and journalist, and the voyage be directed to unfamiliar shores. These things granted, the result of the venture—a book—

can hardly fail to be welcome. At all events, this book is an agreeable tale for summer reading:—especially so at a moment like the present, when so many, glad of respite from the grave excitements of the hour, are still too thoughtful to be accessible by merely fictitious enchantments.

After a cruise from Dublin of about eleven days, including stoppages and stormy weather, the yacht Maria got within sight of the Feroe Islands, and came to speech with the *Feroese*. We cannot give a fairer specimen of the powers of the yacht's man of letters than by allowing him to tell in what manner the Maria's "jack," or signalled request for a pilot, was "honoured," as men of business say, from shore.—

"In a few minutes we observed a boat put off from a village there, which, when it neared us, proved to be an open boat, sharp at both ends, fully twenty feet long, and containing twelve men, two of whom sat side by side on each bench. They were tall, leggy fellows, in pointed caps, brown jackets, and knee-breeches; and rowed with very short small bladed oars, fastened to the gunwale by leather thongs, in a manner which made it impossible to feather them. The boat was not painted, but well covered outside with tar, and finished at each end by prows, which serve as handles with which to pull it upon the beach. The first words the natives spoke when they came within hearing were 'any sick men on board'; for it appears the islanders have suffered very severely from the introduction of infectious diseases by strangers, and entertain a great dread of them. We were greatly relieved to find they spoke a little English, (though it has become so much the universal language of the sea, that a few nautical words are current on almost every coast); and we soon set their fears at rest as to our health, upon which they came alongside, and two of them scrambled over our quarter, while the rest remained towing after the yacht in their boat. In answer to our anxious inquiries, they declared, 'Thorshaven was a gut harbour, very gut,' which was highly satisfactory, as the gale was rising and the mists were thickening around us every minute, and they pointed it out to us immediately opposite, about three miles to leeward on the other side of the sound. All we could perceive was a black church steeple, the roofs of the houses being covered with grass, which makes it impossible at a distance to distinguish them from the surrounding hills. After a short stare of curiosity round, one of the men took possession of the helm, and steered the vessel towards Thorshaven, while our sailors were taking in the sails preparatory to anchoring. As we neared the town, its various features became clearer; flags were hoisted in several places to welcome us, and so rare are arrivals even in this the chief port of the Islands, that in spite of the heavy rain which had set in, the inhabitants flocked in crowds to the shore to see who the new comers were. The situation of Thorshaven is in no respect striking. It does not contain more than 120 single-storied houses, which extend round two little bays, each about 150 yards long, by half that breadth; and over a tongue of land some fifty yards broad, which divides them from one another. In the background are barren turf hills, not precipitous enough to be picturesque. The shores are rocky, and the ground the little town stands upon is broken into hillocks, over which the houses are crowded together without any order, the front of one facing the side of another; the streets between them being only steep uneven paths never more than six feet broad. The pilots steered us into the south-western bay, and let go our anchor in the middle of it, in nine fathoms of water, at six o'clock P.M., within a stone's throw of either side. It proved to be a very fair harbour, being protected by the Gloversness point from the full force of a south-easterly sea; but as the vessel dragged slowly, we moored her by ropes from both bows to rings on either shore, and with this additional security she rode very safely. The pilots asked a pound for their work, though, when given them, they looked so inquiringly at it, that we fancy they can only have seen it before in the shape of twenty shillings. After it was explained to them they seemed much pleased,

and before leaving they shook hands with all on board,—a ceremony which takes place between the highest and lowest in this primitive land. There was only one other vessel in Thorshaven, a little Danish sloop of forty tons. Immediately after we anchored, a Feroese gentleman came on board, who introduced himself to us as Mr. Müller, the Sysselman, or, as he would be called in England, the stipendiary magistrate of the district."

The Sysselman went on to explain that his excellent English had been perfected by a visit to the Great Exhibition in 1851, at which he was the solitary Feroese present. He remained for some time with the party. Their reception was generally marked by that primitive hospitality and wonderment which one must now go so far as the Feroe Islands to seek. The coast scenery, moreover, repaid the yachters—being of the grandest kind:—as, indeed, is shown, unless the artist of the Maria has exaggerated some of its features, as artists will do. The giddy, perpendicular promontory of Myling Head, two aspects of which are given, is a passage of scenery, the sketch of which will give dreams to persons of quick fancies. We are contented to mount it by deputy.

There is sport, too, to be got by those who visit the Feroes,—nothing less than fishing for whales.—

"These whales are not the large Greenland species, but a much smaller fish, about twenty-four feet long at maturity, with an extreme girth of twelve feet, known in the Shetland Isles as the Caaling whale. Though usually spoken of as whales, they are in reality a kind of gigantic dolphin, which follows a leader in large herds or shoals of from fifty to one thousand, and have in consequence been christened by Dr. Traill, of Edinburgh, *Delphinus deductor*; while Cuvier gave them the name of *Delphinus globiceps*, from the round shape of their heads. When they are seen approaching any island, messengers are despatched, and hay fires lighted on the hills, to summon aid; while the boats close at hand drive them, by shouting and splashing the water, into the nearest convenient bay, and keep them there until men arrive in sufficient numbers to begin the onslaught. We found the whales, in this instance, were being hunted into the harbour of Westmannshaven, a place sixteen miles distant by water. * * The fiords, usually so quiet and lonely, were now dotted all over by boats hastening to the spot, their crews rowing against one another in famous spirits; for, besides the capture of a herd of whales affording a valuable supply of food for the winter, the Feroese enjoy the excitement of the chase as much as we do a fox-hunt or horse-race. The row from Westbestad occupied three hours—a time spent by us in a state of great suspense lest the whales should have been killed, or escaped before our arrival; and as soon as we opened Westmannshaven bay, we looked eagerly up it to re-assure ourselves that we were not too late. There we espied them, to our great delight, just perceptible in the distance, spouting numerous jets of water. It was a most curious sight, and the scenery was well calculated to set it off to advantage. The bay is about three miles long by three quarters of a mile broad, and surrounded by steep rugged mountains, which looked particularly gloomy in the sombre twilight. Between the whales and the outlet to the sea, fully sixty boats were collected together, with crews of six or eight men each, who were lying lazily on their oars, while about a hundred natives, on either side, were employed in dragging a net of ropes, some five hundred yards long, across the entrance. This net is only used in Westmannshaven, where there are no eloping shallows on which to drive the whales; it is, of course, not intended to catch them in, for no net could be made sufficiently strong, but it is supposed to retard their escape when they attempt to get out to sea. The boats were the ordinary ones in common use; the only difference observable in them being, that they had now lances stuck upright, like masts, at the stem and stern, and attached to the benches by several fathoms of rope. More boats came dropping in for some time after our arrival, until at eleven o'clock we counted the number up

to ninety; so that, including the men on shore, not fewer than eight hundred must have been present—all of them dressed in the rusty brown jackets and black knee-breeches of the country, with as much uniformity as a regiment of soldiers. The net was drawn farther and farther up the bay, great care being taken to avoid frightening the whales, who swam quietly before it, or rolled about at their ease, evidently quite unconscious of danger. When matters seemed approaching to a crisis, our party separated. Each of us got into a boat, and stood in the bows with a lance in our hands ready for action, and the fray commenced. Half of the boats remained outside the net to support the buoys, and the remainder, about fifty in number including ours, closed round their prey, and drove them, by shouting and throwing stones, towards the shore, the animals tamely submitting until they got close to it. They then turned, evidently in great alarm, and bore down upon us, looking most formidable, and surrounded by a great wave, which their impetus carried with them. Not knowing how the boats would behave, we tyros awaited the charge with no small misgivings, under an assumed air of great calmness. The natives, on the other hand, became frantic with excitement, yelling like maniacs, splashing the water with their spears, and seeming about to throw themselves into it, in the intense desire to head them back. All their efforts, however, were to no purpose. The whole herd broke through our ranks, though they were severely speared in passing. Many of the boats were lifted half out of the water in the collisions; while the cries of the boatmen, mingling with the loud blowing of the whales, made a wild and not inappropriate chorus, which rang through the surrounding hills. When clear of us, the animals continued their career at the same rapid pace, and came in contact with the net, which they carried back, as well as all the line of boats supporting it, several yards; and in a few seconds escaped, either under or through it, leaving a few of their number entangled in its folds, lashing the water up twenty and thirty feet high, in their desperate struggles to disengage themselves. In the end they all got away, and swam half a mile out towards the sea, when they dived under water, and remained nearly a minute out of sight. We then pulled after them as fast as we could. The scene resembled an enormous regatta, with a herd of whales as the turning buoy; and by dint of stones and shouts, they were headed back, again speared, and again broke through all the barriers opposed to them."

Further to rifle this agreeable book would hardly be fair. We have given enough to recommend it; and it will not surprise us if, even now, when the adventurous and the thoughtless are talking of "pleasure trips to the Crimea," this Narrative of the yacht Maria's cruise tempt other yachters to take a look at the good people and the grand scenery of the Feroe Islands.

The Formation and Progress of the Tiers Etat, or Third Estate in France. By A. Thierry. Translated by the Rev. F. B. Wells. 2 vols. Bosworth.

M. Thierry composed this admirable book as an introduction to the documentary history of the *Tiers Etat*. It is, he tells us, the summary of his labours relative to France. In the Third Estate of the French realm were included, not only the *bourgeoisie*, but all orders of people with the exception of the clergy and the nobles. The object of this work is to mark the stages by which civil society progressed under the descendants of Louis le Gros, through six varied centuries, to the death of Louis the Fourteenth. From the confusion of manners and laws, which followed the ruin of the Roman Empire, a social development took place that seemed to augur peace, harmony, and splendour for France during a long course of ages. The monarchy and the nation travelled side by side. New compacts at the close of every era consecrated their union, for each decisive epoch

in the annals of French industry and politics corresponded to the name of some great king or minister. Louis Quatorze led the people in a wild pursuit of glory, which exhausted them, and helped to turn the feeling of the *Tiers Etat* against the throne it had long supported. A fatal divorce then happened between the First and Third Estates of the realm; they parted in mutual rancour, and their jealousies were exasperated rather than appeased by the patrician and ecclesiastical orders. France was thus prepared for a revolution. It had advanced towards the assimilation of monarchical traditions with popular freedom; but the broken bond could not be renewed, and when peace ceased to exist on the basis of common desires and common benefits, discord could not be distant. M. Thierry explains the action of the people—part from priesthood and chivalry—on the destinies of the country and the throne; but touches on the sacerdotal as well as on the aristocratic classes in their relation to the general mass. His treatment of this subject, from the point of view we have described, is luminous and philosophical. It opens French history to its full dimensions, and surveys from an elevated range the sources, the currents and the issues of those mighty events which in the eighteenth century accomplished the work of the *Tiers Etat*—and left the Third Estate, as well as the old monarchy, mere traditions in the French realm. To this outline, which is replete with profound observations and suggestive criticisms, the author has added fragments on the origin and vicissitudes of the ancient municipal institutions of France. The first of these, to which he has given a geographical as well as a political arrangement, reveals the early glimmerings of French liberty,—the experiences of men to whom freedom was new, and partially connects the legislation of modern Europe with the laws and governments of the Middle Ages. The second is a study on the communal constitution of Amiens,—a monograph which, the author admits, will only interest those who find pleasure in minute historical analysis.

We may select from the rapid narrative in the first volume some passages to illustrate the view of M. Thierry, as above condensed. The reigns of Francis the First and Henry the Second are noted as those in which the material prosperity of France increased to an extraordinary extent.—

"In spite of the exhaustion of resources, caused by foreign expeditions, and a frequent alternation of conquests and defeats, the country displayed a degree of luxury in the arts of the Renaissance unknown till then. The Italians themselves were amazed by the number and magnificence of new constructions of palaces and mansions. These buildings covered with sculptures, the very fragments of which excite our admiration, gardens ornamented with statues, porticos, fountains playing into marble basins, replaced, in many of the country seats, not only around, but at a distance from Paris, the towers and the warrens of the seigneurial manors."

The *Tiers Etat* was now at a social height which appears strange when we remember the pride of the nobles and the adroitness of the clergy. But the nobles despised civil offices.—

"It was the plebeian order which supplied, on the recommendation of university honours and other proofs of qualification, more or less numerous, the chancellor, keeper of the seals, the secretaries of state, the masters of requests, the attorneys and solicitors-general of the king, the whole judicial body composed of the grand council, the court of appeals and of reserved cases, of the Parliament of Paris with its seven chambers, of the court of exchequer, of the court of aids, of the eight provincial parliaments, and of a multitude of inferior courts, at the head of which figured the presidial."

One of the results was seen in the culture of learning by the *Tiers Etat*.—

"A minister from Venice, a shrewd observer, remarks, as a characteristic trait in the families of this last class, the care which the parents took that some one of their sons should receive a literary education, with a view to the numerous employments and the high positions which it procured. He attributes to this ambition the great number of universities which France possessed at that time, and in the university of Paris the great number of students, which amounted to more than fifteen thousand. Another Venetian ambassador observes that these students are for the most part very poor, and are supported by foundations made in the colleges—a certain proof, as regards the sixteenth century, of that aspiration of the inferior classes towards literature and knowledge, which discovers itself by so many signs in the two following centuries."

The darker chapters of the story soon follow. We now perceive the Monarchy setting an example of that violence which recoiled upon it, with retributive fury, at a later day:—and yet, says M. Thierry,—

"The *bourgeoisie* of Paris—the fact must be confessed—was an accomplice of the royal power in that day of execrable memory. Deceived by the fable of a plot, and led away by fanatical hatred, the municipal body received and accepted the orders which were to insure the cold-blooded massacre, in which thousands of Frenchmen perished, in all the security of peace, by the hands of Frenchmen. We behold here one of the most painful moments of our history; and the king upon whose name the memory of that deed rests heavily—Charles IX.—remains marked for one single act with the stamp of an eternal infamy."

Under Louis the Thirteenth the precursors of a separation between royalty and the people appeared. Savaron delivered his bold speech in the Louvre:—

"What should you say, Sire, if you had seen in your countries of Guyenne and Auvergne, men feeding, like beasts, upon grass? Would not this new misery, unheard of in your state, excite in your royal breast a desire worthy of your Majesty to render assistance in such a great calamity? And yet the truth of this is so certain that I engage to confiscate my property and my appointments to your Majesty, if I am convicted of a falsehood."

—This address to the king was accompanied with charges against the nobles and clergy—charges which, a century afterwards, were repeated by myriads of voices. At another audience, the nobles retorted, and complained that the *Tiers Etat* declared itself to be one of the children of the state—bound by fraternal ties to the patrician order. The scene that ensued has an important bearing on the history of a subsequent period.—

"As they retired, the assembly of the nobles who accompanied their speaker expressed their unanimous assent by gestures and such words as these: 'We do not choose that the sons of shoemakers and cobblers shall call us brothers; there is as much difference between us and them as between the master and the valet.'"

The events of the eighteenth century were, to some extent, rehearsed in the seventeenth. Two hundred years exactly before the fall of Louis Philippe—that is, in 1648—in Paris, says Cardinal De Retz—

"Everybody, without exception, took up arms; children of five or six years old were seen with daggers in their hands; mothers were seen who themselves supplied their children with them; there were more than twelve hundred barricades erected in Paris in less than two hours, lined with flags and with all the arms which the League had left fit for use. In the street Neuve Notre Dame, among other things I saw a lance which certainly belonged to the times of the old wars with the English, dragged along rather than carried, by a little boy eight or ten years old."

A climax came when Louis the Fourteenth declared that he intended to rule alone:—

"Fifty-one years had elapsed since the death of Henry IV., and in this interval, by means of the order which had been powerfully established or ably maintained by the ministerial dictatorship, the social

and moral state of France had made immense advances. At its escape from the civil wars of the sixteenth century, the nation, henceforward withdrawn from the double current of religious passions, which had dragged it in opposite directions into the great European contest, fixed its thoughts upon itself, and applied itself to look for its original position in the political and intellectual order of things. Thence sprung for the seventeenth century, two simultaneous tendencies, which consisted, the one in rendering the influence of France free and personal abroad; the other in developing the French spirit in its peculiar individuality, and its native character."

The personal character of the monarch who undertook to be the autocrat of such a people is thus suggested by M. Thierry:—

"In wishing to make but one object of his own happiness and the welfare of the State, he was too much inclined to confound the state with himself, to absorb it into his own person. He too frequently mistook the voice of his passions for that of his duties, and the general interest, that which he boasted to love the most, was sacrificed by him to his family interest, to an ambition which knew no limits, and to an unregulated love of applause and glory. His long life exhibits him more and more rapidly carried down this dangerous descent. We behold him, at first, modest, and at the same time firm of purpose, loving men of superior minds, and seeking the best advice; next, preferring the flatterer to the man of information, welcoming advice, not because it was the soundest, but most conformable to his tastes; lastly, listening only to himself, and choosing for his ministers men without talent or without experience, whom he took upon himself to form."

—And the crisis to which he brought France naturally follows.—

"When the reign, which was to crown under such auspices the ascendant march of the French monarchy, had falsified the unbounded hopes which its commencements had excited; when in the midst of fruitless victories and continually increasing reverses, the people beheld progress in all the branches of public economy changed into distress,—the ruin of the finances, industry, and agriculture,—the exhaustion of all the resources of the country,—the impoverishment of all classes of the nation, the dreadful misery of the population, they were seized with a bitter disappointment of spirit, which took the place of the enthusiasm of their confidence and love."

In the second volume are some curious details on the early political institutions of France. M. Thierry's work is a fine historical study, and will add to the writer's high reputation. Mr. Wells has translated it clearly and gracefully.

Institutes of Metaphysics. By J. F. Ferrier, A.B. Blackwood & Sons.

We may fairly welcome this production of Prof. Ferrier as a rare specimen of conscientious earnestness in the department of metaphysics. Although he occupies the Chair of Moral Philosophy and Political Economy at the University of St. Andrew's, the author energetically avoids all those attempts to reconcile speculation with "common sense," which have given rise to so much philosophical insipidity on the northern side of the Tweed. With equal care he shuns that obscure style, bred between German transcendentalism and English humbug, which has so much contributed to bring the name of metaphysics into disrepute. Far from assuming the character of "Sir Oracle," Prof. Ferrier is anxious to exhibit to his reader the straits and shallows of his own wisdom, and is never more candid than when he confesses his ignorance of a predecessor's philosophical intentions.

The form of his book is partly after the fashion of Spinoza's *Ethics*,—that is to say, he lays down his propositions in a rigid order of logical sequence, accompanies each with a demonstration in the geometrical style, and then adds "observations and explanations," in which he reviews or elucidates the opinions already entertained by previous philosophers. This less

rigorous portion of the book is by no means the least instructive, and it is (though this perhaps is a doubtful commendation with respect to a philosophic work) unquestionably the most amusing. Prof. Ferrier examines every opinion with acuteness, and always interprets with lucidity. Familiar and even comic illustrations he rather seeks than eschews, and now and then he has no objection to a little pleasant satire.

As for the system of metaphysics which Prof. Ferrier proposes to establish in his Institutes we may reasonably doubt whether he has so completely set at rest every speculative difficulty as he seems to imagine; nay, we are not clear that his theory (apart from the form in which it is couched) establishes any new principle whatever. The first proposition of his "Epistemology," or theory of knowing, declares that, "along with whatever any intelligence knows, it must, as the ground or condition of its knowledge, have some cognizance of itself"; and, as we proceed further, we find evolved, among others, the successive propositions:—that the object of knowledge is always object *plus* subject,—that the objective part of knowledge is inseparable in cognition from the Ego,—that matter *per se* and all its qualities are absolutely unknowable,—that the Ego cannot be known to be material, nor known at all *per se*,—that mere objects of sense cannot be objects of cognition,—that the material universe *per se* is not only unknowable but unthinkable,—and that the only independent universe which any mind or ego can think of is the universe in synthesis with some other mind or ego.

These propositions merely make up that sort of subjective idealism which, in the language of Fichte, may be formulized thus:—"The Ego posits itself as limited by the non-ego." Prof. Ferrier, we are aware, thinks he has soared above this point of view, by making his propositions apply, not merely to human intellect, but to intellect in general, of whatever kind. We suspect this flight is merely imaginary, for however we may generalize on the subject of intellect,—an intellect that is not human (save when accepted as an item of a theological creed) is a metaphysical phantasm about which nothing can be proved. Notwithstanding the wide manner in which the first proposition is expressed, it only appeals to a fact of consciousness in the human mind, and its extension beyond that precinct is what an old Kantist would have styled "dogmatical."

The "Epistemology," or theory of knowledge, is followed by an "Agniology," or theory of ignorance. The propositions in which this science is contained are to the effect that ignorance is an intellectual defect, *possibly* remediable—that we can only be ignorant of that which can possibly be known—and that, consequently, we can neither be ignorant of matter *per se* nor of the ego *per se*. Prof. Ferrier attaches great importance to the discovery of a category unknown to his predecessors in speculative science; but, after all, does not this "Agniology" rather settle a question on the application of terms, than introduce any really new element into philosophy? It positively affirms that the term ignorance cannot be applied to that of which no knowledge is possible,—namely, to that which is in itself contradictory. We may be ignorant of the Chinese language, but we cannot be ignorant of a round square. Neither can we be ignorant of matter *per se* or the ego *per se*, for it has been already settled in the "Epistemology" that these are inseparable elements in every thought and perception; and that, therefore, their separation would involve a contradiction.

The great use of the "Agniology" is to pave the way for the third part of the system,

the "Ontology," or theory of being. Absolute Being, not involving a contradiction in itself, is an object of which there can be knowledge or ignorance, wherefore it is neither the *ego per se* nor matter *per se*, but the synthesis of the subject and object,—the connexion of the ego and non-ego. Thus the result of the "Ontology" corresponds with that of the "Epistemology." A conscious ego is all that can be known,—a conscious ego is all that *is*. From this point Prof. Ferrier attempts to leap from contingent absolute existences to necessary absolute existences; in other words, to the *a priori* demonstration of a Deity. We ascribe this attempt rather to a desire to conciliate the theologians, than to an exigency of the system, which comes to its proper apex in the conscious ego. When the absolute is divided into the necessary absolute and the contingent absolute, it begins to wear a suspicious appearance, and reminds one of those two sizes of nothing, wherewith indifferent expositors of the Differential Calculus are wont to perplex their hearers.

If we cannot regard Prof. Ferrier's system as a new creation in its essentials, we can cordially recommend it to metaphysical students as an acute and entertaining exposition of the doctrine which is popularly called Idealism.

Minute Book kept by the War Committee of the Covenanters in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, in the Years 1640 and 1641. Kirkcudbright, J. Nicholson.

THIS contribution to Scottish local—and in a smaller degree to Scottish general—history has been printed from a manuscript in the charter-chest of an old Galloway family, the Maxwells of Cardyness. In its getting-up and general appearance it does credit to a small provincial town. Our Northern countrymen, though famous even in Erasmus's days for the way in which they plumed themselves on their antiquity, are by no means over careful of the documents by which that antiquity is illustrated. Scotland has several good antiquarian clubs, yet we still hear of parochial and other records finding their way to snuff-shops and book-stalls. The country gentlemen and burgesses should feel a pang of reproach on hearing of such events;—they should remember that even the merest business entries of their ancestors are of value in aiding the historian to give the colouring of real life to his pages, and that such reality is not only the most attractive but the most valuable quality a history can possess.

In this 'Minute Book' we may see with what energy the Scotch set about a war in days when the material facilities for conducting war were very different from what they are now. It opens on the 27th of June, 1640,—seven weeks before their army crossed the Tweed at Coldstream, and forcing their way to Newcastle, drove Charles to summoning—what turned out to be—the Long Parliament. All the world knows how they had risen against the King and Laud's 'Service Book,' when it made its appearance in St. Giles's Church, Edinburgh, on Sunday the 13th of July, 1637;—how the Solemn League and Covenant had been signed far and wide by high and low in 1638;—how a "pacification," which did not last, was patched up, the year after;—and amidst what earnest excitement they were now advancing another step in the cause. The proceedings of one county may give us a picture in little of what was going on all over Scotland in that most important crisis of its history.

The War Committees consisted of the leading landed men in each county, appointed by Parliament to raise the share of horse and foot re-

quired of their district. Thus, in the first meeting of that for the Stewartry, we have Sir Patrick M'Kie, of Larg, chosen "preses," and so many troopers ordered from each parish, with directions that "the samyn horses be put furth at the sight of the persons eftir-specified,"—whereupon follow the names of Gordon, Lord Kenmure, other Gordons, Maclellans, Maxwells, M'Kies, according to the position of their lands. Very summary measures were taken to procure the support of the forces. If a person was "ane cold covenanter" or a "non-covenanter," so much of his rent was at once "up-lifted," or his crops seized, and a certain allowance made for his family's maintenance out of them. We shall give a specimen, in their own language, of the stern decrees which the lairds made at their committee meetings. They had little compassion on "ane loyterar,"—a character known, it seems, in that age—as in all ages.—

"The quhilk day, David Macmollan, loyterar, being conveit for saying, that Galloway should not keip Mr. Hew Hendersone, his minister, and him bothe; depones, out of his awn mouth, that if Mr. Hew did not freithe him of ane sclander laid upon him be the parochen, in reporting him to be the persone that said he wald be drunken with Armacannie, that the said minister and he should not keip Galloway. The Committee ordaines, for the said caus and uthers forsaidd, quhairin he was decernit in a fyne befoire, to pay for all ane hundred merks, and to stay in ward untill the samen be peyit, and to sit the morn in the stocks betwixt ix and xij houres, with ane paper on his heid beirand this device, AS ANE LOYTERAR, with the forsaidd speach of his minister."

"Allegit monied men" were called before the committee to be inquired of,—what they had to lend "to the use of the publick"? Some answer "nihil,"—some that they had so many merks, and some that they had was "owand to creditors." "Base fugitives" are rigidly provided for by measures which prevent such persons from moving without a "pass," and by compelling "maisterless" men to attach themselves to some "trade, maister or captain."

Yet, it would be a mistake to suppose that the enthusiasm for the cause was not general. There are curious entries illustrative of the sacrifices made. Witness the following:—"Erlistoun," is Gordon of Erlston, a distinguished branch of the family from which came "the young Lochinvar."—

"The said day delyverit by Erlistoun, to the Commissioners, ane silver peice and ane dussane spoones, weigt, ij pund ij unce ix drops. Maire, ten silver spoones, weigt, ane pund ij unce ix drops. Maire, ane silver coupe and ane silver peice, weigt, xij unce xj drops. Item.—Maire by Erlistoun, vj silver spoones, ane paire belt heides, ane pair silver weires, and foure outh little peices of silver, broken and haill, weigt, xj unce xv drops. Item.—Maire by him, sex silver spoones, weigt, x unce xij drops. Whairrof delyverit back again of evill silver, ane pund ane unce xij drops."

"Cardyness' Wyff" is, of course, the wife of the Laird of Cardyness,—very unceremoniously introduced.—

"Cardyness' Wyff.

"Delyverit by the Lady Cardyness, in name of her husband, ane silver coupe, ane stak of ane fann, and sex silver spoones, weigt, xv unce xv drops. Delyverit back ane unce xij drops.

"Delyverit by Robert Gordoun, for himself and certain uthers, certain silver worke, weigt, thrie pounds thrie unce xij drops. Delyverit back v unce twa drops."

They were very minute in their knowledge of the persons to be relied on:—

"The quhilk day, Alexander Gordon of Knockgrey, Captain of the parochen of Carsfarnie, declares no cold or uncovenanters within that parochen.—Alexander Gordon of Erlistone declares no cold or uncovenanters to be within the parochen of Dalry, whereof he is Captain, except John Newall.—Alexander Gordon of Gairlary, Captain of the parochen

of Kelles, declares no cold or uncovenanters to be within the said parochen of Kelles.—William Gordon of Shirmers, Captain of the parochen of Balmacellan, declares no cold or uncovenanters within his parochen.—George Glendonyng of Mochrum, Captain of the parochen of Partone, declares the lyke.—George Livingstone, Captain of the parochen of Balmaghie, declares the lyke.—William Gordon of Kirkconnell, Captain of the parochen of Buittle, Crocemicheal and uthers, declares no cold or uncovenanters within his bounds except John Maxwell of Mylnetone; William Maxwell of Middelkone; Gilbert Maxwell of Slognaw; Mr. Patrik Adamson, sumtyme Minister at Buttle; Mr. James Scott, sumtyme Minister at Tungland; George Tait; Paul Reddik; John Browne of Mollance; Robert Browne, his brother; John Maxwell of Colignaw; James Maxwell of Brekansyde; Thomas M'Gill at Keltone."

This is in various points of view an interesting volume. The economist might refer to it for hints on prices, and so forth: we read, for instance, that the worst horse was to be worth "jc. lib. monie,"—somewhat above eight pounds. To social history it contributes,—more especially by showing us how property has changed hands; for of the families then predominant, some have disappeared, and many are now much reduced. The Jacobite cause—personal extravagance—the spread of commerce, and gradual decay, have played havoc with the historic names which lord it over this 'Minute Book.'

Rahab.—[Rahab, ein Frauenbild aus der Bibel].

By Max Waldau. Hamburg, Hoffmann & Campe; London, Trübner & Co.

THIS is the last work of a young poet, very recently deceased, who was regarded as one of the most rising men among the revolutionary bards of Germany. As a general rule, the name of the publishers, Hoffmann & Campe, may be taken as an index that the author whose title-page they adorn is inimical to the powers that be.

In forming the title of his poem, Max Waldau made use, we think, of a wrong preposition. His Rahab is not a female figure taken out of the Bible ("ein Frauenbild aus der Bibel"), but, on the contrary, a creature of his own brain, by him thrust into the Jewish annals. The connexion of the famous Rahab with the fall of Jericho, according to Max Waldau's narrative, is not dissimilar to that of Masaniello's sister with the great Neapolitan insurrection, as set forth by that original historian, M. Scribe. One might almost imagine that, after witnessing an inspiring performance of 'La Muette de Portici,' he went home to pass the remainder of his evening in reading over the early chapters of the Book of Joshua, and that the misfortunes of the dumb Feñella (her dumbness certainly not included), somehow or other, became blended in his dreams with the acts of that lady who was so useful an ally to the Hebrew leader.

However, motives are a poet's own, as well as matters of detail, so far as they do not militate against an essential idea of history. All that we have respecting Rahab from the sacred record amounts to the fact, that she concealed the spies sent by Joshua from the pursuit of the King of Jericho, and that, amid the general massacre of her fellow citizens, she and her household were alone spared by the victorious Israelites, as a reward for the good service she had done them. Why she thus showed herself an enemy to her own country is an open question, which any person is at liberty to answer after his own fashion; and if we point out the unbiblical way in which Max Waldau put in his response, it is not by way of censure, but to warn the unsophisticated that they are not to expect what, in this country at least, could be considered a Scriptural work.

Though Max Waldau's 'Rahab' is in the narrative form, it may be likened to that most primitive state of the Greek drama, in which the action that takes place before the eyes of the spectator is as minute as possible; while on the other hand, the poet does not shrink from any multiplicity of events that he can assemble within the limits of a speech. The storming of Jericho has already begun when the poem opens; but the preceding events of Rahab's life are told by the heroine herself, who from the top of her residence, situated (as we are informed by Josephus) near the wall, utters a huge soliloquy, as she vengefully anticipates the destruction of the city. She has deeply loved the son of the King of Jericho; and with the most indefatigable accuracy she depicts the rise, progress, and fatal consequences of this unfortunate passion. Not only was her love, and the sacrifices it involved, rewarded with ingratitude by the royal seducer, but when she ventured to call upon him she unexpectedly found herself the sport of a drunken revel,—and after being subjected to every sort of insult and outrage on the part of the prince and his companions, was literally cast out into the street. She was eyed with scorn by the citizens; the destruction of her father's house, which was burnt down, was unjustly laid to her charge by the voice of rumour; and the police regulations of Jericho compelled her to reside at a house of ill repute, on the extreme boundary of the city. Bent on vengeance, and making the most of her position, she has become what the Parisians call a *lorette*; and in this capacity, she has not only conquered universal contempt, but is the fashionable beauty among the *haut monde* of Canaan. For a while, she has contented herself by destroying the peace of private families; but such particles of vengeance are insufficient for the appetite of a Rahab. As a *grand coup*, she has betrayed her city to the invading Israelites; and when she admits us into her confidence, the moment of her triumph is close at hand.

The pleasing spectacle that greets her eyes, when she rises from the couch on which she has surveyed her past life, will serve to show the descriptive power of Max Waldau. The measure, it should be observed, is peculiar. At the first glance, his line looks like a very bad specimen of modern hexameter; but on closer investigation, it turns out to be a series of five anapaests and an extra syllable, with the antique licence of putting in the anapaest's place a spondee, which often, through modern exigencies, becomes an iambus.—

The storm is proclaim'd from without by the psalm and the trumpet,
And howling, and stamping, and clatt'ring raise billows to heaven.
She rises in haste, and in haste girds her garment around her;
She sweeps from her forehead her hair and her dark meditations.
And hurriedly bends herself over the parapet, watching,
Until, with a wild-flaming glance, she has found out the sought-on.
The bravest of all, who tow'rs o'er the rest on the rampart,
Down, down, ever cleaving their skulls, does he hurl the assailants;
Now whirling his axe in the air, and now dashing it downwards.
Not a blow does he deal but a life by the weapon is shattered;
If all were like him in the battle, the foe would ne'er conquer.
Already the Ark is receding, and six times defeated
By Jericho's force is the throng of unwearied assailants;
When struggling along to the wall, and for stepping-stones using
The corpses of comrades that lie heap'd together before him.
A giant approaches—a ponderous club is his weapon;
The best fall before him; they fall who with firmness resist him.
He stands at the breach wide-swinging his club in a circle;
His followers clamber behind him with shoutings triumphant.
The repell'd press forward again, for new courage inspires them,
And the walls, it appears, have been suddenly gained by the foe-man.

No! the cry that the peril proclaims has the vict'ry retarded,
And fearless the leader of all hurries on to the rescue,—
Drives back to the edge of the wall the gigantic invader;
And as blows are exchanged loud thunders the clang of the weapons.

Must skill be by force overcome, or at last be triumphant?
How heavy the fate that depends upon this single battle,
Is shown both above and below by a breathless attention;
The foot that was climbing the ramparts now suddenly pauses!

The hand remains fix'd in the air, that was using the jav'lin;
For no one would dare to disturb those two in their combat.
The club, dull whizzing, is whir'd round the head of the giant,

And widely extending its blows, presses hard on the hero.
The nimble opponent has watch'd the assault, and eludes it,
Then darts on his foe with the menacing spring of a panther,
When the premature shout of the giant, too early exulting,
Is chang'd by his failure to howlings of mad disappointment.

Now totters the bulwark of Israel, for swift as the lightning,
The steel has descended answ'ring, and has entered his shoulder.
He staggers—he feels that his muscular arm is relaxing;
The men of the city are shouting, the foemen are howling,
And reckless of order are climbing the walls to the rescue.

That all may be brought to an end o'er the peril increased.
The hero well-watching his time, flings down the war-axe:
He stoops to the ground, and he picks up a sword that is near him—

An ownerless sword, straight-shap'd, and well-sharpen'd for thrusting.

And now with a dexterous leap he advances, and plunges
The weapon as far as the hilt through the ribs of a giant.
Who, foaming forth blood, falls back as one mortally stricken;

But e'en as he falls, down tumbles his club, and it shatters,
With the force of its weight unaided, the skull of the victor,
Who proudly had turn'd him around to seek living opponents.

Now down from the battlements rolls that carcass unwieldy,
A terror to those it had led, which terrors it crush'd.
But cast down for ever is likewise the city's defender,
Who writhes in the dust, which his hands are convulsively clutching.

All this cutting, thrusting, lunging, tumbling, rolling, which Rahab witnessed from her house-top, was especially pleasing to her on account of the catastrophe,—for the fallen hero of Jericho, who unluckily allowed the club to tumble on his head, and kill him by its own weight, was the author of her wrongs. The enjoyment produced by such a series of strong "effects," required strong language to give it full expression; but Rahab was equal to the emergency.—

This humble house, may I ever regard it with blessing!
The joys which the living bestow can by life be demolish'd;
The pleasure which death gives, death will endow with duration;

And so this hour, this place, give pleasures eternal.
A worm, lowly crawling, while hope is the bride that checks it,
Is misery, life's slow car ever tardily dragging;

But happiness useth its wings, and it soars like the falcon,
And, swifter than lightning, as high as the stars it exalts us.
Then why should the happy repine at the past and its sorrows?

No more it affects them than obstacles rais'd in the valley
Enumber the falcon who pierces the clouds far above it.
This house is the height from which I, as the falcon, in safety

Escap'd from the woes of the earth, and with radiance drunken
Look down on the banquet which Death is thus spreading before me!

Oh, glorious spectacle! Nobly are loaded the tables!
How active the servants! How busy the boys with the wine-cups!

Their number is countless;—no monarch his guests ever feasted
More royally;—none ever revell'd more proudly than Rahab.

The steam of the viands is rising,—the wine-cups are foaming,

And dish upon dish is with grand prodigality pressing.
Although long ago has the rarest and choicest been eaten.
Right precious and dear to my sight was that gem of the table!

Rahab, if not a strong-minded, is a strong-speaking lady. We often hear of a banquet on horrors, but only in a vague sense. Rahab carries out the idea by ranging her horrors into first and second courses, with proper footmen to bring them to table. Alas! "These violent delights have violent ends." Unhappily, Rahab's boy-brother, the only being she loves, wanders out of his sister's house, is wounded by a stray arrow, and, perceiving Rahab's understanding with the Israelites, dies cursing her as a traitress. The shock is too much for her senses, and she drops into a state of mental oblivion, that lasts for the remainder of her days. It is, of course, needless to say that this catastrophe is wholly independent of the Hebrew record; but we may

observe that altogether Rahab has nothing antique in her composition. She is purely a creature of modern reflection.

The Memoirs of Philip de Commines, Lord of Armenton. Edited, with Life and Notes, by Andrew R. Scoble, Esq. Vol. I. Bohn.

THE ever-attractive Philip, who wrote so pleasantly and pictorially the histories of Louis the Eleventh and Charles the Eighth, and that of the more redoubtable Charles of Burgundy, met with no incompetent critic in Montaigne. The latter told us that, "in Philip de Commines are to be found an excellent disposition, the language of true simplicity, and a pure narrative"; and that in Philip's pages the good faith of the author is everywhere apparent, without vanity or affectation.

We do not, indeed, think that the Lord of Armenton was entirely free from vanity, but he was certainly void of affectation. He lived at a time when men committed dark deeds for the sake of brilliant profits, and asked the saints to help them towards success. When they were not ashamed to implore such aid to such an end, we need not be surprised at the alacrity with which they made confession to their fellow men. Success was then the apology or authority for any crime committed by king of men or lord of acres. Triumph made a virtue of the crime; at all events, it took from the latter its proper name,—just as, according to Harrington's old rhyme,

Treason ne'er succeeds,—and what's the reason?
Because, when it succeeds, it is not treason.

We are sure that few readers can peruse the memoirs of Louis the Eleventh without being forcibly convinced that there is a portion, at least, of Europe in as barbarous a condition as that which the government of Louis inflicted upon France. Louis was for ever protecting his neighbours for the purpose of preying on them. He was insulting in his protection, mercilessly cruel in his rapacity, pious of protest, and habitually mendacious. The sacrament on his lips met the lie fresh coming from his heart. For the felonious ends he had in view, he seldom lacked an accomplice among his nobility. The most noble stooped to the vocation of spies, and even the ladies of his family could condescend to so scurvy a profession.

Of the translation before us, we may say that, generally, it is rendered with vigour and correctness. The notes are not more frequent than necessary, and they are laudably brief, without becoming thereby obscure.

The Life of the author, written by Mr. Scoble, is a neat biographical contribution; and in some forty pages contains much that is matter of interest agreeably narrated. It may be said of Commines that he merited the appellation that was once conferred upon Prince Radzivil, who was so ready to do any work which the Czar would intrust to him that men called him by the name of "the Black Officer." Philip, who was born on the Belgian side of the river Lys, with France in full view before him, served the sovereign of the latter country after deserting his own. Besides being a deserter he was a defrauder, despoiling orphans of their right, and unblushingly lying in order to preserve the wealth that had been ill acquired. In modern days, were a man with such a character to address himself to the task of writing the memoirs of the times in which he lived and the courts in which he served, he would be rewarded with nothing better than distrust for his story and contempt for himself. Commines was all we have said, and yet no one disbelieves his book or despises the author. His confessions are not "crapulous," like those of Rousseau; but he who makes them, or who comments

upon the deeds and motives of others, is only more dignified because he wears steel instead of broadcloth, and because, with many of the vices of the day, he had virtues which were not common to his time.

We subjoin an extract which shows at once the temper of the times, of the King, of Communes, and of the Parliament. It is only necessary to premise that Louis the Eleventh had conferred on Communes a share of property from which the heirs of Louis d'Amboise had been unlawfully excluded. The Parliament had, only on compulsion, and under protest, registered the royal decree which did wrong to the defrauded heirs.—

"Communes was in possession, it is true; but, finding himself disturbed in his possession by ceaseless lawsuits, he requested the Procureur du Roi, in conformity with the terms of the letters-patent granting him the property in question, to secure him from all future hindrances to his peaceable enjoyment of the same. The Procureur du Roi consequently interfered; and thenceforward the parties to the suit, in appearance at least, were Louis XI. and those whom he had spoiled. The parliament, with an independence which does it honour, availed itself of every pretext for securing to the oppressed family some remnant of their ancient domains. A great deal of the property had been sold to the king by the last possessor, but the conveyance had been illegally made, and of this the La Tremouilles furnished abundant proof. Louis XI. then adduced the letters of confiscation issued by his father against Louis d'Amboise: and if this property had been subsequently restored to that nobleman, it was, urged the king's advocates, on conditions which had not been accomplished—among others, on condition that Jeannie d'Amboise should not marry without the consent of Charles VII. That permission, replied La Tremouille, had been obtained; but where was the proof? doubtless in the archives of the Château de Thouars, the ancient residence of their ancestors. Louis XI. it will be remembered, had ordered the Seigneur de Bressuyre to take possession of this château at the beginning of the last illness of Louis d'Amboise. After his decease, no member of his family, not even his widow, was allowed to enter it. A very summary inventory of the furniture was hastily prepared, and great care was taken not to particularise the contents of the charter chests. In order to sustain his pretended rights against the persistent opposition of the La Tremouille family, and to cloak the most revolting iniquity with a show of justice, the king appointed a commission of inquiry to search the archives of Thouars for letters likely to serve his case. Two documents of great importance were found, under the hand and seal of Charles VII.; one granting the Vicomte de Thouars the restitution of all his confiscated property, and the other giving him permission to marry his daughter to the Prince of Bretagne, or any other husband he might select. Communes, who was one of the commissioners, saw at once that these papers would destroy all his chances of success, and he threw them into the fire. Jean Chambon, another commissioner, took them out again immediately, expressing his indignation at such culpable conduct; and the papers were transmitted to the king, whom Communes had informed of their character. On receiving them from the Seigneur de Bressuyre, the wily monarch threw them into the fire, saying, 'It is not I who burn them, but the fire;' and he required all present to swear never to divulge what they had seen."

We cannot detail how Communes was at length ejected from the estate which he usurped,—for which, however, he received compensation from a succeeding King! Assuredly, they were a long-enduring people that were loyal to such kings; and that they were so till the monarchs forgot that a people existed is proved by the remark of Lord Lyttelton, who was in Paris at the birth of the first Dauphin, son of Louis the Sixteenth, and who found the half-famished people so frantically exultant therat, that, as he tells us, one poor fellow "gives notice that he designs to draw teeth for a week together,

upon the Pont Neuf, gratis!" Enthusiasm for royalty has seldom exceeded that exhibited in the act of this jubilant dentist.

A History of Modern Italy: from the First French Revolution to the Year 1850. By Richard Heber Wrightson. Bentley.

THE half-century that has elapsed since Napoleon was crowned by a Pope has added many interesting and some heroic passages to the annals of Italy. Within that interval, every State on the peninsula has been convulsed, and almost every city alarmed by the roar of batteries or the more portentous tocsin-bell. There have been invasions, civil wars, and the struggles of an undying nationality: and these present aspects at once inconsistent, complex and variable; but through them all the main line of Italian history may be traced in the unsteady yet progressive career of a revolution. This political sequence appears most distinctly in the connexion between events which were separated by considerable lapses of time: as the rise of the Carbonari,—the Paris plot,—and the agitation of Rome before Pio Nono was elected. These were but the successive phases or developments of the long contest between Italy and the foreign elements which pressed on it from without. If we seek the physical type of this moral warfare we find it in the continual strife-between the dykes of Holland and the waters inclosing them, especially at that period in which the sea threatened to master the land and to expel its tenants. But even since the accession of the reigning Pope, a grand series of anecdotes and pictures has been supplied to the historian. Anecdotes and pictures we say, because these are the illustrations which a mere annalist omits and which a dull commentator disdains, though they really reflect the character of states and nations. The centenary festival, to commemorate an Austrian defeat,—the popular meetings imitative of England,—the terror of the alien garrisons,—the revolts,—the march of the Romans under Durando,—and the adhesion of princes to the national cause, brought to a climax the lengthened drama of Italian vicissitudes,—and, failing, left the people once more to wait, and once more to endeavour.

Such was Mr. Wrightson's opportunity. His materials were not scanty, his authorities not few. But he has quoted, among Italian writers, only Ugo Foscolo,—the most vain and eccentric of men,—Gaulterio, Farini, Cibrario, Colletta, Pepe, Le Masson, and some of earlier date, neglecting, as we think, to consult the less formal, though not less important, depositories of national history, such as journals, pamphlets, flying circulars, and the uncensored press of the Secret Societies. To a diligent student such materials would be forthcoming. Mr. Wrightson's plan, however, is essentially defective. He is satisfied with a mere glance at the externals of his subject. Italy, from his point of view, is a map, on which armies are moved and diplomatic boundaries defined. State negotiations, battles, and treaties, and such obvious matters, form the substance of his volume. Nothing is analyzed, nothing is coloured,—all is bare outline, broken and confused; for even this meagre narrative is not skillfully conducted; but traced in a zig-zag course, with one chapter referring to another, with Mazzini going off the stage that Charlemagne may come on, and A.D. 1848 disappearing to be followed by A.D. 1500. This results from the writer's inability to treat Italian history upon a comprehensive plan. He isolates the different kingdoms and provinces, and is therefore compelled to repeat himself whenever an event of general importance falls into the narrative. But the most serious deficiency in

the book is this: that of the Italians as a nation, as a social body, changing, learning, growing and living, we are told nothing. Mr. Wrightson offers a desultory sketch of political events, and no more.

This want of scope and continuity in the narrative agrees with the broken surface of Mr. Wrightson's historical view. He considers the political actions of the half-century as a tissue of revolutionary failures, which have led to no results. It is never suggested to him that all these should be marshalled processionally, as one great movement progressing to a known end, and not yet ripe for success. The least philosophical criticism is that which attributes the condition of a great people to the perverse influence of little malicious fraternities, conspiring in the dark and forcing governments to be oppressive in spite of their benevolence. Apply such a rule to English history, and it loses all unity and grandeur. Isolate the episodes of our great progress, and what a fickle, infirm and purposeless nation we appear! The dynastic changes, insurrections and explosions of the Middle Ages seem like the confused warfare of tribes in a desert. From that time our developments assumed more distinct proportions, yet they wore the aspect of inveterate inconstancy. We repealed one religion by statute and by statute enacted another. We executed a tyrant and submitted to a dictator. We restored to the throne, amid bonfires and a bloody holocaust of patriots, a proscribed family, which we afterwards expelled. We had two rebellions, of which one barely failed. We lived through the Georgian reigns in a state approaching barbarism, until Horace Walpole said he would bury his MSS. in a garden, "to lie there until these islands are re-discovered." We adopted finality as a prelude to reform; and have yet maintained our character as a nation that knows itself, and only alters according to the varying issues of one long conflict between two principles of government. A country thus operated upon is fickle as plants are fickle when they grow from sprouts to full flower. So it has been with the Italians. From the time when shadows gathered over the bright day of their history they have suffered and resisted, and uniformly, from the Alps to Trapani, advanced towards a single and distinct result.

Mr. Wrightson adopts the meanest form of historical composition; though he also generalizes courageously. His chief axiom is, that Secret Societies have prevented Italy from attaining happiness. Her existing governments, he allows, have usually been harsh and narrow-minded,—not severe, but disobliging, as the Austrians say of themselves;—yet, had the national party ceased to conspire, many good official works would have been performed.—

"The governments, harassed by incessant alarms, and engrossed by dangers which threatened their existence, were constantly compelled to defer administrative and commercial reforms, of which they acknowledged the necessity."

It is not easy for Mr. Wrightson, or for any one else, to determine what the Austrians would have done which they did not do. Of their actual policy, General Pepe gives a far better account. He wastes no words on unfulfilled intentions; but describes the blight of Lombardy, the extortion of stupendous sums for the Imperial treasury, the restraint of commerce by prohibitive laws, and the system of police, spies, and prisons which demoralized that country. Charles Albert said that when he sought reforms, he was threatened by the daggers of the Carbonari as well as by the chocolate of the Jesuits; and on this text Mr. Wrightson sermonizes, imputing to the occult arts of the charcoal-burners more evil than to

fiscal extortions, censorship, or martial law. Inoperative for good, he says, these associations are powerful for evil. It would take more logic than he possesses to prove this point; but China and America, we may add, by way of illustration—not of approval—both exhibit instances of Secret Societies existing to some purpose.

There is one interesting chapter in Mr. Wrightson's volume—that in which he notices the political writers of Italy,—though even here he falls from the level of an historian to that of an advocate by describing only those of "the moderate party." This tendency is fatal to the integrity of his work. We do not judge whether his opinions be false or sound; we simply regret that historical views, though drawn on so cold a surface, should be so discoloured by partiality. The writer is "mild as a star in water" when he reflects on the asperities of Austrian rule; he attributes high virtue and policy to his favourite Italian leaders; and he might have dealt more justly with the great party which he stigmatizes as the bane of Italy, capable only of destroying, and chargeable with having exasperated the oppressions of the land. Literary reasons preclude quotation from his work, which contains no pointed criticisms,—no luminous summaries,—no dramatic scenes. Scarcely a colouring touch is bestowed on the defence of Rome and Venice; and Brescia, which suffered and dared enough to inspire a canto of an Iliad, supplies matter for five lines!

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

De Poe and Churchill. By John Forster. In Two Parts. (Longman & Co.)—These essays have been reprinted, with additions, from the *Edinburgh Review*. They are masterpieces of fresh and spirited writing. We doubt whether any fragmentary piece in the language contains more life-like pictures of the age of pillories, libels, and courtly bribes than Mr. Forster's account of Defoe. It is a real mirror of the time, reflecting the manners of the town, the characters of public men, and the features of politics and literature in full and bright perspective. Mr. Forster's opinion of Defoe is well known. He regards him as the father of the English Novel,—the original of Swift, the model of Richardson, the teacher of Fielding, Smollett, Sterne, and Goldsmith, no less than of Scott, Bulwer, and Dickens. This is much to say,—perhaps too much to prove;—but the author of 'Robinson Crusoe' deserved a partial critic, for he had been marvellously neglected. Possibly, Mr. Forster's essay may suggest to future historians the justice of giving more distinction to this noble English name; but it will hardly have the effect of reviving popular interest in the "whole works" of a writer who devoted himself so much to local and ephemeral satire. Perhaps Defoe himself, could he revisit the glimpses of the moon, would be more than satisfied to find one of his books read by everybody and a dozen others read pretty widely. Nevertheless, this loving analysis of his life and acts, itself a specimen of style, will not leave his reputation where it was; nor, assuredly, ought that of Churchill, though Mr. Tooke might have thought so. The satirist finds a steady critic and a candid biographer; and many of the old ideas of him are examined and set aside. For instance, Warburton said that he died of a drunken debauch; and we often hear this falsehood adopted as "a point" by a moralizing lecturer. But Churchill was not a man to die without enemies, who could diffuse their mercenary libels the more freely when thus released from the fear of his reply. "He is dead," wrote Horace Walpole, "to the great joy of the Ministry and of the Scotch." Mr. Tooke's notes, also, are riddled by Mr. Forster's criticism; though Mr. Forster himself has to correct errors in the Essays, as originally printed. The 'Speculum Crapegomorum,' which was attributed to Defoe, he now suspects was from another pen. But, for the most part, the

"additions" are developments of the subject, and render its treatment more perspicuous and entertaining.

Willy Reilly and his dear Colleen Bawn: a Tale founded on Fact. By William Carleton. 3 vols. (Hope & Co.)—This is a charming story, a kind of Irish chivalry poem. Mr. Carleton has the good luck never to leave Irish ground, nor to go far from the Irish peasantry, amongst whom his strength of delineation chiefly lies. There is a good deal of extravagance and exaggeration, no doubt; but the whole story is founded upon incidents so romantic that no fiction can exaggerate the actual truth. The character of old Squire Follard is true to the Irish human nature as developed in that class and in that day. As to the "dear Colleen Bawn," Mr. Carleton succeeds admirably in impressing upon the reader the reality of her beauty,—a matter somewhat difficult, in spite of the elaborate descriptions that are bestowed upon heroines in ordinary. The appearance of the "Colleen Bawn," when she raises her veil at the trial of Willy Reilly, has the effect of a burst of sunshine. Willy Reilly himself is a darling, and there is an atmosphere of romance and nobleness about him which can scarcely fail to win all hearts. The picture of the state of the country under the pressure of the terrible "penal laws" against Catholics is done well and vigorously, but without needless bitterness. Exeter Hall declaimers would do well to read this novel while the May Meetings are on: it will show them how things look when "the Lion" is allowed "to turn painter."

Eugenia Carnot; or, Reputation's Struggle: an Original Play, in Five Acts. (Strange, jun.)—There is no deceit in this title—'Eugenia Carnot' is original from first to last. "The character of Eugenia," says our author, "is no fiction, but a being, with all her faults, I once ranked as a friend, though long since, by an untimely fate, numbered with the dead; and her memory I still esteem, however Saints may carp at my confession." Original, too, is the writer's fullness of self-content,—since, while speaking of his play, "he has the satisfaction of knowing," he says, "with all its faults,it is superior, rejected as it has been, to the wretched abortions which weekly desecrate and disgrace the English stage, through the influence and agency of a certain class of writers and translators.Its principle is very different to the usual hash of milk-and-water and clap-traps served up for the playgoer's edification; sarcasm and irony are largely blended. Perhaps in no drama was it ever more so; but when rightly used, nothing is more effective."—The style of 'Eugenia Carnot' is as original as the character of the heroine and the prefatory modesty of the dramatist. The diction is neither rhymed, like Corneille's; nor every-day blank verse, such as Shakspeare's; nor in free choral metre, analogous to that used by Milton in his 'Samson Agonistes,' but has modes and cadences all its own. To exhibit these, we need merely transcribe the opening soliloquy of the "original" heroine.—

A drawing-room in Carnot's house.

Eugenia (seated with a book in her hand). All pleasures seem distasteful.

The witching interest of the novelist—
The poet's fire—philosophy's deep research
Of the powers—wondrous principles in nature,
Developed day by day—the gem to me,
Though with mind o'ercast, of an existence
Loath—abhor—but still struggle to uphold.
O! Nature, that it should be so.
The painter's genius awakens no kindred
Emotions within my soul. Too oft
There is a shadow—reflection's stern reality
Poisoning the illusion—
Recalling the bitter remembrance of my being—
A creature dishonoured. [Rises and comes forward.
O! have I tried to reveal the sad story
Of my early days to Carnot—how basely sold—
Betray'd; but the darkened brow but too well
Told with what hatred he'd regard me,
If he thought a dishonour'd woman he had taken
To his arms; that his hate, contempt,
I could not—dared not—to encounter:
Imperill'd as his love, my reputation would be;
For those I live—all else condemn.

We will spare the reader further specimens of "the irony" promised in the Preface: sufficient is to assert that so far from the fun failing, it becomes only more fast and furious as "Reputation's struggle"

struggles on. In page 13, Eugenia and her partner say as many cutting things concerning the present state of the stage, as if they were qualifying themselves to criticize it in epigrams. In page 39, the Struggler quotes from Mr. Emerson. In pages 36, 41, 49, and 83, the original dramatist owns to having resembled, paralleled, rivalled Shakspeare in his 'Hamlet,' 'Macbeth,' and 'Othello,' vindicating the difference betwixt the two great men in little foot-notes. By way of closing the drama, Eugenia goes merrily mad.

A Long Look Ahead; or, the First Stroke and the Last. By A. S. Roe. (New York, J. C. Derby: London, Trübner & Co.)—There is much in this book that may by impatient readers be deemed "long winded," but the book is a good book notwithstanding. It has a healthy, hearty, out-of-doors, country air about it, and the details of real American farm life are charming in their natural homely delineations. There are some long conversations in which different religious sects are made to talk to one another, but it is managed in so kindly and pious a spirit, and the results are so full of pleasant incident and good feeling that to lay the good counsel to heart would more profit the reader than to be critical and find fault because the action of the story is somewhat delayed. The character of the hero, who goes about his work "right off," is drawn with spirit. The book has a decidedly American accent, but it is that of a healthy nationality and not a vulgar provincialism; and as a genuine picture of American country life we recommend it to our readers.

Recollections of the Mess-Table and the Stage. By Henry Curling. (Bosworth.)—The late actor, Samuel (or Jerry Sneak) Russell, is said to have been an excellent story-teller. Some of his stories are here re-told, and very dreary and witless they are. "Dead men," they say, "tell no tales," and if "Jerry" Russell recounted no better than what may be found here, it would have been as well if he had been silent when living. What harm he can have done Mr. Curling we do not know, but the latter gentleman has taken bitter vengeance by thus exhibiting the old actor. The Mess-Table stories have a little more spirit in them, but even these are very mild. The most useful portion of the volume is an intercalary chapter against cruelty to cab-horses. It will be read with approbation by the subscribers to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Adventures of Frank Ogilby. By the Rev. W. Wickenden, B.A. (Hall & Co.)—"The Bard of the Forest" (such is the romantic name of the Rev. W. Wickenden, B.A.) praises himself in his Preface so comfortably—making use of an imaginary "fat friend" in a coffee-house as panegyrist—that we have not the heart to disturb his complacency by severely reviewing 'Frank Ogilby.' After the praise, too, he puts forward a plea, which though it be not in good taste, nor having the slightest relevancy to his authorship, we will acknowledge by an act of concession, and be silent concerning the worth of the work produced under the difficulties recounted. There is a mode of criticism employed by some of our French contemporaries on like occasions, which we will describe by an example,—permission to digress being requested. M. A. (writing of the appearance of Madame B.) assures the readers of his *feuilleton*, that she "has as much grandeur as passion,"—that "the brilliancy of her execution is equalled by the lustre of her voice." Innocent English opera-goers who have witnessed the exhibition and found it deplorable, may well exclaim—"How can a man like A. write such utter falsehoods?"—"What has A. written?" is the rejoinder.—"He said that, Madame B. had as much grandeur as passion."—"Did he say that she had either?"—Mr. Wickenden's book and Preface are calculated to tempt civil critics to deal with them "in the French style." Being, however, English, and not polite, we will confine ourselves to the above anecdote; and leave "the Bard of the Forest" to his rural readers.

Biographical Sketch of Dr. Golding Bird. By J. H. Balfour. (Edinburgh, Constable & Co.)—In this outline of Dr. Bird's career—embodied in an address to the Medical Missionary Society of Edin-

burgh—there is a disproportionate amount of notice bestowed on his private character and feelings, as separated from his scientific life and labours. The students were told by Dr. Balfour that Dr. Bird was "eminent,"—why or how he was eminent, the lecturer was at less pains to set forth. In fact, the memoir places us in a dilemma. If there were materials for a biographical sketch, this little volume does not bring them to light; if there were not, its well-meant generalities do not supply the deficiency. So trivial is its substance, indeed, that several pages are filled with an account, by an anonymous "accomplished Lady," of a day with the Doctor in the caves of Kerby. There and then occurred a gossip; but the only characteristic trait remarked on by the Lady is one which, if she be correct, would sadly reduce our estimate of her friend's intellect. We hope Dr. Bird was not so weak as this injudicious eulogist would make him appear; there can be no harm, however, in holding up to the young men of Edinburgh the example of a successful predecessor, who, whether or not he deserved the reproach contained among these reminiscences, won his way by patience and integrity.

The History of the Chartist Movement, from its Commencement to the Present Time. By R. G. Gammage. (Hollyoake.)—Mr. Gammage concludes his records of personal squabbles "with loathing and disgust." The sixth part of his narrative, however, is scarcely more encouraging than the fifth, if viewed as a statement of the capacities put forward by the "Chartist" body in the course of its agitation. We notice, however, as an illustration of the writer's integrity, that his account of the official preparations made in April, 1848, for a battle in the streets of London affirms nothing which is not corroborated by the historian of the Sappers and Miners.

Some Account of Mrs. Clarinda Singlehart. By the Author of 'Mary Powell.' (Hall & Co.)—Another novel by the Author of 'Mary Powell' has followed quickly upon the heels of the last—'The Old Chelsea Bun-House.' There is much dexterity and neatness of workmanship in the present story, as there is in all its predecessors, but their number takes from their value;—they resemble each other, like roses growing upon the same bush, and the bush would have been stronger had a few of the flowers been nipped off whilst in the bud. There is a mechanical dexterity and facility of handling which is fatal to any intrinsic or abiding worth in the work. Nothing can be prettier than the picture of Mrs. Clarinda shelling peas in the arbour in her picturesque dress of the period;—nor need there be anything more touching than the scene of her desolate sorrow over the discovery, in after years, of the letter which her brother William had taken up in absence of mind and forgotten;—but the author has done so much in the same style, that the whole story has a mannered, manufactured air, as though done by machinery, and not by hand or head, for the occasion. The author's facility for delineating quaint pictures of bygone times, and of displaying pure natural emotions, must inevitably sink down to the low-water mark of mediocrity and dullness, unless she ceases to write so much and so constantly in imitation of herself. If she were more unequal, and actually did worse, we should have more hope of her; but it is the quality of dullness "ever to be regular," by which we would be understood to mean—monotonous.

We have on our table an unusual weight of theology. *The True Doctrine of the Holy Eucharist* is a work of pretentious size,—"a feeble effort," in five hundred pages, by the Rev. J. Taylor. It is a reply to Archdeacon Wilberforce's statement of his theory; but the writer, not satisfied with a great show of ecclesiastical reading, has an angry Preface, full of "bitter bad" words.—*The Truth and the Life*, by Bishop McIlvaine, of Ohio, is an earnest treatise, less polemical than admonitory.—So, also, are the Rev. H. Goodwin's sermons on Lenten fasts, preached before the University of Cambridge, and entitled *Christ in the Wilderness*.—Scriptural history, from the Jewish point of view, is ably illustrated by Dr. Philippsohn, in twelve lectures, delivered at Mag-

deburg, on *The Development of the Religious Idea*. His volume has been well translated by Miss A. M. Goldsmid, who adds some pointed annotations.—We see nothing in Mr. Ambrose L. Phillips's *Mahometanism in its Relation to Prophecy*, except a confused recapitulation of the arguments tending to exhibit the Arabian teacher as a predestined blasphemer, and the most deadly foe of the human race. Such reasoners, of course, prefer our Latter-Day prophets to old-fashioned historians. Possibly such a fragment as the *Last Scene in the Jewish Drama* may enjoy their favour. It is "the text of a conversazione"; and indulges in not the sweetest wild flowers of rhetoric. The authoress turns to her task "with ineffable complacency,"—describes the Euxine as having "spued out a prophet,"—and drowns herself at last in a deluge of rhapsody about "spiral minarets," "transparent loveliness," and "earthly sabbates, thrilling antepast of heavenly elysiums."—A style the reverse of this is adopted by Mr. J. Kennedy, in a paper on *The Question of the Supposed Lost Tribes of Israel*, with two interesting appendices 'On the Six Days of the Creation,' and on 'The Chronology of the World.'—Relating to the War are Mr. James Douglas of Cavers's tracts on *The Coming of the Kingdom*, which set forth that the Turks and the English aristocracy are wasting away,—and a supplement to Sir Culling Eardley's *Correspondence of the Government of England on Christianity in Turkey*. In this pamphlet Sir Culling Eardley is the "round and top" of the discussion, the Baronet being glorified in every page.—A vigorous debater on ecclesiastical affairs appears in the Rev. W. Morgan, of Tregynon, who writes *An Appeal to the People of England on the Church and its Corruptions in Wales*. He has significant facts to exhibit.—Spirited enough, but totally without reference to facts of any sort, is *A Reply occasioned by Remarks made on a recent Pamphlet, entitled 'The Seventh Angel.'* The disputants consign one another to "the mire," because they cannot agree whether the mystic number 666 was made up by the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland.

On social topics, one of the best essays we have lately met with is the Rev. C. Marriott's argument, that the *Co-operative Principle* is not opposed to true political economy. The writer treats his subject broadly and liberally, criticizing various recent works on labour, capital and consumption.—Mr. St. André's *Board of Supply and Demand*, which we have elsewhere seen improved upon, obtains considerable notice from Mr. Marriott.—Addressed to a similar class of readers, though in the guise of fiction, is *The Strike*, a workman's story, advocating patience, respectability and mental no less than physical temperance.—*Apologos of temperance*, Mr. W. P. Roberts asks, pertinently, *What is a Traveller?* and develops the subject until he allows every wayworn Sunday walker to urge, "Am I not a man and a traveller!"—To similar purpose, "A Pedestrian" calls the attention of Sir Benjamin Hall to *The Plague Cradles of the Metropolis*. London, he affirms, is a stench under the nose of civilization, whereupon he advances a theory, that perfume is necessary to human life. Every month of the year has its peculiar sweetness, from January ivy to May blossoms and the roses of July. As the egg to the crocodile, he says, so is dirt to disease.—Less fanciful are Mr. J. J. Scott's publications:—*A Manual for the Clerk to a Local Board of Health*,—*Burial Fees and Charges*,—*A Guide for Burial Boards*,—and the *Burial Acts of 1852*, 3, 4, with an explanatory analysis of each.—On reforms in another department, Mr. George Cochrane writes *The Economy of the Law, especially in relation to the Court of Chancery*, a well-considered pamphlet. Mr. Cochrane offers to raise immense new revenues for the State, from Chancery fees. He asks for no salary until he has increased the public income by ten millions sterling annually!

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[ADVERTISEMENT.]

THE AUTHORITY FOR THE NON-OBSERVANCE OF THE SEVENTH DAY.

It is recorded in Holy Scripture, Gen. ii. 2, 3, That, on the Seventh Day of the creation, Almighty God "blessed and sanctified the Seventh Day;" this He did, without exemption of any Nation, or limitation to any time; the command, therefore, is universal and imperative.

It is asserted, in direct contradiction of the expressed declaration in this record, That God did not deliver this command, on the Seventh Day of the creation; but as there is no command in Holy Scripture for the observance of the Seventh Day, but this, previous to the time of the Seventh Day being treated of, as a commonly known and observed institution, see Exod. xvi. 23, &c.; this assertion cannot be regarded.

It is asserted, That though our Blessed Lord or His Apostles are not recorded in Holy Scripture to have commanded, yet the Apostles and first Christians, in addition to their observance of the Seventh Day as a Sabbath, are recorded to have observed a Second Day in each week as a day for assembling together for Religious purposes, namely, The First Day of the week; and further, it is asserted, That this day in Holy Scripture is called 'The Lord's Day.' There is no such day in Holy Scripture, nor is it asserted to record on this subject; and as our inquiry has relation to a command of God, we cannot give heed unto Tradition, without incurring our Blessed Lord's condemnation of the men of His time, seeing He condemned them, not for any fallacy in the argument they had constructed; but for the impety of constructing any argument on Tradition, to change any command of God. See St. Mark xlv. 13.

There appears, therefore, to be no authority for the Non-observance of the Seventh Day, above, Dogmatic Teaching; or, The Edict of a Living Infallible Head.

May Almighty God grant us to consider, Whether if the Non-observance of the Seventh Day is not preached by St. Paul, and where it is preached by him? we are not cursed by the apostle, if we so French, even though we claim to have powers equal to the Angels of Heaven. See Galatians i. 8.

HERMAN HEINFETTER.

17, Fenchurch-street,

1st Sabbath of 1852.

P.S. May 1, 1855. Again, for the One Million One Hundred Thousandth time, I inquire, "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord?"

SIR HENRY ROWLEY BISHOP.

Mr. Mitchell's advertisement, put forward some days ago, which stated, that the increasing illness of Sir H. R. Bishop rendered necessary a curtailment of the vocal concerts at which the composer had presided—has been followed closely by tidings that "the play" is "played out."—Since the week came in the most popular and excellent of modern English musical composers has died—aged, states the *Times*, sixty-eight years.

From an English Dictionary of Musicians we learn that Sir H. R. Bishop was a native of London—and that his principal musical instructor was the Signor Francesco Bianchi who established himself in London as opera composer for Billington and Banti towards the close of the last century.—In the year 1806, young Bishop was employed

(possibly at Bianchi's instance) at the Opera House in the composition of *ballet-music*.—Two years later he began to write for the English theatres by producing the music for 'Caractacus,' a pantomimic *ballet* at Drury Lane. In 1809 he fairly took his place as composer of operas by contributing to the same theatre his 'Circassian Bride,' which was only performed once,—since, ere it could be performed a second time the theatre was burnt down, and the score with it.—From that period to the year 1826, when Sir H. Bishop's career may be said to have terminated by the failure of his 'Aladdin' (an opera produced in injudicious rivalry of Weber's 'Oberon'), he wrote incessantly for the two great theatres; operas, *burlettas*, melo-dramas, incidental music to Shakespeare's plays, patchings and adaptations of foreign operas—the list of such productions, original and concocted, numbering more than seventy efforts.—Besides stage-music, Sir H. Bishop composed glees, ballads, canzonets in ample number, succeeded by Sir John Stevenson as arranger of the airs selected by Moore for his Melodies—and, later still, attempted gravely to emulate the foreign composers by producing, at the instance of the Philharmonic Society, a serious *cantata* or two, which were less successful than his more hastily-written and less imitative music of other days had been. No due consideration was denied to Bishop. He enjoyed for many years popular fame and reaped large gains. He was one of the first Philharmonic Directors,—for some years conducted the Antient Concerts,—was elected Professor at Edinburgh under the unsatisfactory provisions of the Reid Legacy,—and held an appointment also at Oxford. He was knighted by our Queen shortly after she came to the throne.

The *Athenæum* need hardly, on this occasion, once again declare the value of Bishop as an English composer. Had he possessed more of the true artist temperament, more self-respect and more energy, with the gifts which he owned and the opportunities which he commanded he might have founded a school of dramatic music in this country. No ordinary grace, delicacy and freshness distinguish his melodies. In the best of his airs and stage-glees the words are followed and set with taste (and some of his best words, when not Shakespeare's, were the spirited opera lyrics and choruses of Mr. Planché). The concerted pieces in his dramas, though demanding less action than is now required, are constructed with an ease and natural fancy referable to no model. His treatment of the orchestra was simple and clear,—neither feeble nor thin,—always appropriate, often elegant, generally effective. But whether the cause was too great indifference or too obsequious a readiness to please, by accommodating himself to every manager's humours, it matters not now;—certain it is, that Bishop wasted his genius in frequent trivialities,—brought the name of English music-director into disrepute on the Continent, by tampering with the scores of foreign composers, under pretext of naturalizing them,—and when he attempted to retrieve himself, did so rather uneasily than conscientiously, by assuming a style which was not his own, and by measuring himself against the Webers and Rossinis who ruled Europe, not in his, but in *their* fashion. There is music in 'The Slave,' 'The Miller and his Men,' 'Guy Mannering,' 'Maid Marian,' 'The Virgin of the Sun,' 'The Englishman in India,' and half a score beside of his operas,—there are settings by him, for one or two voices, of Shakespeare's choicest words,—delicate, melodious, and English enough to make us express our regret anew, that Bishop never comprehended his own strength or his own responsibilities as a master and an inventor. Even as matters stood,—though no one lent himself more readily than Bishop did to lower the tone of our musical managements,—no one has enriched our stores of English concert-music with so many beautiful and real contributions, to which it has been proved that singers and audiences return with delight, after a thousand works, more grim, more assuming and more elaborate in semblance, have been tried, tested and laid aside.

Something more remains to be stated, sad and strange,—though only, perhaps, an ultimate con-

sequence of the apathetic character of the man which interfered with the public career of the composer. It has been no secret for some time that Sir H. K. Bishop's fortunes have been long in an embarrassed condition. He has died without leaving provision for the future of a son and daughter,—without even having provided for their education. How and why no better fruits of past fame and profit than these should have been realized, it is not needful at the present juncture to reckon. We call attention to the fact, not in reproach to the dead, not to pain any who survive to be pained, so much as to open the door to lovers of English music, who recollect pleasures enjoyed by them in former years. To another class of the public the case may be propounded—we mean to those actively beneficent persons who are perpetually appealing to the musician in aid of their beneficence. Let the myriad bounties done by "the profession" to the sick, the improvident and the impoverished of other classes be now remembered by more than sentimental thanks.—Even in the last weeks of the composer's life active measures were begun by a few of his friends to relieve him from immediate anxiety and to supply that which was wanting to his survivors. These will now take more positive form and address themselves to the kindly and the liberal with a louder and more direct appeal. We have no doubt of their success any more than we have of the lasting musical reputation of him to whose aid they were and will be devoted.

THE VALLEY OF THE ASHES.

REFERRING to the letter from Mr. Finn, Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, whose courtesy and hospitable kindness it has been my privilege to share, I beg to make one or two remarks.

I visited Palestine in 1852, it having beforehand been mutually arranged with Dr. Robinson that I should meet him there, and accompany him on his journey. Finding, when I reached the country, that our plans and objects did not coincide, I gave up the arrangement; and thereafter visited almost every place of interest "from Dan to Beersheba," accompanied only by my Arab attendants.

While at Jerusalem, some remarks of my friend Mr. Calman, of the London Jews' Society's Hospital there, in reference to the mounds to the west of the Damascus gate, suggested the probability of the view referred to in Mr. Finn's letter. I proceeded, in company with Mr. Calman, carefully to examine the mounds; believing that if I were correct in supposing that they were the ashes of the ancient temple-sacrifices, proof to that effect might probably be found.

Digging, both at the top and near the base of the largest heap, I was struck with the fact that the whole seemed homogeneous, there being no earth, stones, pottery, or rubbish of other kind apparently mixed with the grey-blue mould. This seemed unfavourable to the popular idea of their being formed from soap-boilers' ashes. Continuing to dig, I was greatly interested soon to find among the ashes, (which appeared to me to be *animal*, though I never have had them analyzed) small portions of bone, still strengthening my belief that I was surrounded by the remains of the burnt-offerings of Israel during a thousand years. But the proof appeared to amount to demonstration when I discovered, a foot or more from the surface, fragments of bone sufficiently large to leave no doubt as to the kind of animal to which they belonged. I have in my possession a number of specimens, among which is one, three inches long, evidently the leg-bone of a sheep or lamb; another, a fragment of the skull or nose-bone; and two others, fragments of ribs, which it seems impossible to mistake for any other but the same animal. The first mentioned of those specimens has marks, in some parts, of having been charred or blackened by the action of fire.

Since I returned from the East, I have frequently, both privately and in public, mentioned the above circumstances, and my intention to have the ashes analyzed, that it might be ascertained whether they consisted chiefly of animal matter. Further inquiry on this point is rendered unne-

cessary by the analysis of Dr. Roth, as stated in the letter of Mr. Finn.

While upon the spot, I was also struck with the light which the position of those mounds seemed to throw upon the vexed question of the ancient course of the city wall. It seemed to confirm the theory of Dr. Robinson, that instead of running considerably *within* the present city boundary, as is contended for by those who maintain the authenticity of the so called Holy Places,—the ancient wall must have run considerably to the westward of the present Damascus gate, it being most probable that the ashes would be deposited *immediately* outside the wall, and not carried so far from it as the heaps are now found.

If these ideas be correct, do they not seem to throw light also upon an expression,—to which I am not aware any definite meaning, as to the locality, has ever been attached,—in the boundaries of the city referred to in Jeremiah xxxi, 40—"the valley of the dead bodies, and of the ashes." If by "the valley of the dead bodies" is meant the Valley of Hinnom, it seems likely, from the connexion of the passage, that by "the valley of the ashes," is meant the locality where the ashes are now found. It is not improbable that anciently, when the wall ran close by, there was a descent outside to the westward, accounting for the expression *valley*, the hollow now being filled up or levelled by the accumulated rubbish of the city's "long desolations."

While I am glad that the attention of others has been directed to this interesting matter, I trust it may not seem uncalled for thus to advert to it, that I may not seem to be entering into other men's labours, should I ever be able to publish notes of my journey.

I am, &c.,

WILLIAM DICKSON.

20, George Square, Edinburgh, April 24.

MEETING OF DR. BARTH AND DR. VOGEL.

ON the 1st of December, 1854, it fell to the share of Dr. Barth—he who had already been believed dead—to meet in "very good health and spirits" Dr. Vogel:—to see once more the face of a European and grasp the hand of a countryman who had been sent to join him.

Dr. Vogel had left Kuka in the latter end of November, to proceed in a westerly direction *en route* for Zinder, the north-western frontier town of the Empire of Bornu,—being anxious to extend his astronomical and other observations to that place. Happily, in the beginning of the journey, he received a letter from Dr. Barth, dated Kano, the 24th of October; and this was the first direct news he had received from him. According to this letter, Dr. Barth had left Kano *en route* for Kuka, about the same time that Dr. Vogel had departed from the latter place to proceed westward, on the very road which the former had chosen. Thus, both travellers had started to meet without knowing it themselves. Dr. Vogel, keeping on the Kano road, and leaving Zinder on the right, had the happiness to fall in with Dr. Barth at Bundi, a small town situated about 110 geographical miles north-east from Kano, and nearly 200 geographical miles due west from Kuka. As only a few preliminary hasty lines from Dr. Vogel, written in pencil, have come to hand, the particulars of this event have not yet transpired; but it may easily be conceived what it must have been to Dr. Barth. It was exactly six years since he left Europe, in company with Mr. Richardson and Dr. Overweg; and since the decease of the latter, on the 27th of September, 1852, not only had his communications with Europe been all but entirely cut off, but he had indeed been isolated from the civilized world, and left to battle with manifold hardships and dangers.

Dr. Vogel writes, that Dr. Barth had moved on to Kuka, whence he intended to proceed, without further delay, home, *via* Murzuk and Tripoli. As to himself, he continued his journey to Zinder; whence he despatched a letter with the above news, dated the 7th of December last, and which took nearly four months to reach Tripoli by way of Ghadamis. He intended to return to Kuka "within four days" from the date of his letter *via* Minyo. The meeting with Dr. Barth, and the

inviting prospects of returning home in his company, had proved unavailing to lessen the zeal of this youthful explorer for the cause he is engaged in; on the contrary, he intended to proceed as speedily as possible to Yakoba and Adamaoua, in which plan he seems to have been encouraged by some acceptable and important passports, in the shape of letters of recommendation, from the powerful Fellata Chief at Sokoto, which Dr. Barth had brought with him, and handed to his countryman. Dr. Vogel had not received any communication from Tripoli or Murzuk since the 27th of February, 1854, in consequence of the state of the Saharan countries, which seem again involved in general war and bloodshed.

Since the above was written, letters from Dr. Barth himself have come to my hands, which, though written before his meeting with Dr. Vogel, are of great interest, as they contain the first news respecting his journey from Timbuktu back to Sudan, and the first positive information ever received from a European traveller of the River Kowara between that place and its lower course.

It appears that Dr. Barth had been detained at or near Timbuktu several months beyond the date of his last letters despatched from that region, namely, the 23rd of March, 1854, between which date and the time of his arrival at Kano, which took place on the 17th of October last, nearly seven months intervene. Dr. Barth himself says:—"After a protracted stay of nearly a year at Timbuktu—the 'Queen of the Desert,' as it is justly called by the natives—I retraced my steps eastwards along the shores of that magnificent river, which the undaunted Scotchman [Mungo Park] descended about fifty years since, fighting his way through numerous fleets manned by Tuaricks and Sudans—lost labour to science, his journal having perished with him;—while I went along reconciling and befriending these very people, and obtaining full security from their chiefs for any English visiting their territories, whether by land or by water." Thus, Dr. Barth has been able to realize his great wish, namely, to trace this river between Timbuktu and Say; which latter place is situated in about 13° 10' north lat. and 3° east long., Greenwich. This, its middle course, seems everywhere navigable and enlivened with large fleets, its shores densely inhabited by people, who received and treated Dr. Barth most kindly, and implored him to stay with them altogether, or to return soon in an English ship. They learned from him with astonishment as to whence the river—which forms the basis of their existence and wealth—comes from, and where it terminates.

Dr. Barth alludes to a large map of the river drawn by him, which he had sent to the Foreign Office. He has also transmitted with the present letters some of a former date, which had been despatched by him while on his way to Timbuktu, but which, as he found on his return to Sudan, had not been forwarded, probably, because their envelopes and addresses had been lost. These letters are dated "Dore, in Libtako, 16th July 1853," which is about midway between Sokoto and Timbuktu (see map in my 'Geographische Mittheilungen,' part I.), or in lat. 14° 30' north, and close upon the meridian of Greenwich, and they contain a full account respecting that region, which was entirely unknown before.

Libtako forms a portion of the very extensive Fellata dominions, and is a very important commercial point. The principal article of trade is the salt of Taodenni, which is brought thither by the Arabs of Timbuktu, while the Tuaricks bring corn and butter, the people of Mosi their celebrated donkeys and their famous cotton manufactures, cheap black shirts and a large peculiar kind of guro nuts. The inhabitants of the country supply sweet and sour milk, and their manufactures consist chiefly of very handsome and cheap shawls made of cotton and wool, and of various colours. The market at Dore, the chief place of Libtako, is held every day. Cowries are almost the sole medium of interchange.

Libtako occupies an elevated, dreary plain, devoid of trees and shrubs, and suffering from the want of rain. Granite protrudes in many places

out of the soil. Dr. Barth made many inquiries respecting the town of Adafudia, reached by Mr. Duncan, and which, according to the position assigned to it by that traveller, ought to be within 100 geographical miles from Libtako—but in vain; he could hear nothing whatever of it. Though the country was in a state of anarchy when Dr. Barth passed through it, he did not suffer on that account, but rather from the too exalted manner in which he was received everywhere, the inhabitants flocking from all quarters to receive his blessing. The Arabs looked upon him as no common Christian, owing to the information he possessed of topics specially interesting to themselves, and to the fact of his coming from the East. The Tillahas had christened him "Môdibo," by which name he was universally known in those countries.

It was near Libtako where Barth was so fortunate as to make the acquaintance of one of the followers of the Sheikh el Bakay—the Pope of Timbuktu,—who subsequently became his best friend and greatest benefactor. This person exercises his influence over a very extensive region, nearly as far as Sokoto in the east; and he may be said to have created of Timbuktu a kind of African Rome,—the centre of the power of Islam.

The region between Libtako in the west and the river Kowara (here called Tsa, Say or Mayo) in the east is occupied by territories belonging to the large country of Gurma, only the northern part of which belongs to the Fellatas. The language of Gurma has a few words in common with that of Benin. Within Gurma are various rivers, all tributaries of the Kowara, the largest being the Sirba, which Barth found twelve feet deep in the beginning of July, and which he had to cross by means of immense bundles of reeds fastened together, as boats are entirely wanting. The valley of the Sirba is very ill-famed, as being most destructive to all kinds of cattle and horses. The soil along the course of the river swarms with black worms.

Dr. Barth's letters contain interesting extracts from the 'Tarikh el Sudan,' an important work on the history of Sudan, hitherto unknown.

On his arrival at Kano, in October last, Dr. Barth, instead of finding letters and supplies from home, received information of the rumour of his death having been spread in Sudan, and even reached Europe, about which, not knowing exactly the origin and circumstances connected with it, he felt very sore and indignant, while the absence of all needful supplies put him to great straits and inconvenience. Happily these, as we know, he subsequently got over. His longing to reach Europe knew no bounds, as he declares that the being exposed to another rainy season (the sixth), or to remain much longer without the refreshing influence of European atmosphere and proper food, would be his certain death. Yet in the same sentence he speaks of ultimately returning to the field of his labours, and trying to penetrate into the interior of Africa from the coast of Zanzibar, after having strengthened his health!

The only cause of joy which awaited him in Kano was the news of the success of the Chadda Expedition, of which he seemed to have learnt all the particulars from the natives. Among others, he met an old acquaintance, the Governor of Hamarrua, a country situated on the shores of the upper course of the Chadda. This person told him that the exploring steamer Pleiad had also reached his country, that he had received the Expedition very friendly, and had made the commander a present of six oxen.

AUGUSTUS PETERMANN.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE Council of the Royal Society have recommended the following gentlemen for election out of the Candidates for the Fellowship:—Messrs. A. Connell, W. Farr, W. L. F. Fischer, I. Fletcher, W. J. Hamilton, J. Hawshaw, J. Hipsley, J. Luke, A. F. Osler, C. B. Vignoles, C. V. Walker, A. W. Williamson, G. F. Wilson, and Drs. T. Thomson and R. Wight.

We owe an explanation to our readers. In common with our contemporaries, we last week

announced the decision of the French Government to open the Palace of Industry on the 1st of May; and on the information laid before our readers we ourselves acted. We left for Paris to assist at the inauguration. When we arrived, we found the chief edifice in the hands of a crowd of workmen; in some places they were taking down, in other places they were erecting; many exhibitors were still ignorant of the position and extent of the space allotted to their use; in a word nothing was prepared for the great day. Yet, within and without the palace, it was universally believed that the opening would take place. To guard against mistake, we made inquiries late on Friday, and received an assurance that, whether prepared or unprepared, the Palace would be opened by the Emperor on the 1st of May. This was official. We state so much in proof that we did not trifle with the convenience of our readers. We had such assurance of the truth of our statement as must have satisfied reasonable men. On Saturday morning, to the astonishment of Paris, the *Moniteur* declared the inauguration postponed to the 15th of May. Will it then take place? The official journal says so: yet the work to be done is so vast, the means appear so inadequate, and the system is so variable, that we shall not be greatly disappointed in a second postponement. In the Palace of the Fine Arts—a separate edifice, half a mile from the main building, and covered from it by a line of *cafés*, booths and restaurants,—the work is well advanced. The English department is ready. France has hung a few of its many acres of canvas. Germany, Spain, Belgium and Italy are less prepared; but all their several galleries will be soon complete. A long tunnel-like building—ugly outside, but effective within—is in progress for the reception of machinery; and is likely to be ready at Midsummer. Greater activity is seen in the chief edifice, where alone the ceremonial will be held. Our Indian collection throws its gorgeous colours across the left-hand galleries; and our Astronomer Royal's mysterious wheels excite the wonder of a crowd of artisans on the ground-floor. But the French portion is much in arrear. Without a recollection of the marvellous rapidity of our preparations in Hyde Park, it would be difficult to believe that order could be evoked from such confusion in the short time intervening between this day and the 15th of May.

Our readers will remember that an astronomical determination of the difference of longitudes of Greenwich and Brussels took place in 1853. Last year a similar determination was made for Greenwich and Paris. The triangle is now to be found; and M. Leverrier, we understand, is in Brussels for the purpose of arranging with the Directors of the Belgian Observatory the needful experiments.

The recommendation of Sir R. I. Murchison as the successor of Sir H. De la Beche, which has been sent to Her Majesty's Government, was signed by many leading men in various branches of science, including the Presidents of the Royal, Geological, Linnean, and Geographical Societies.

We print with pleasure the following announcement from the friend and biographer of Campbell.

"I beg to inform you that Mr. Marshall's statue of Campbell the Poet was erected on Tuesday, the 1st inst., in Poets' Corner, and is now ready for inspection. Subscribers to this monument, both at home and abroad, will be glad to learn this fact through the pages of the *Athenæum*, to which the Poet's admirers, and particularly his executors, are so much indebted.

"I am, &c., W. BRATTIE, M.D."

"18, Tavistock Street, Bedford Square, May 3."

A pleasant gathering of the Surrey Archaeologists was held last week at Chertsey, in the great room of the Town Hall. The walls were adorned with a collection of architectural fragments and encaustic tiles discovered during recent excavations made upon the site of Chertsey Abbey; a series of carvings from the Palace of Cardinal Wolsey, at Esher, representing the armorial bearings of the Bishops of Winchester; a variety of ancient arms and armour; rubbings of Surrey and other monumental brasses; an early painting by Turner of Walton Bridge by moonlight, and one by Russell, of St. Catherine's Hill, Guildford; various water-

colour drawings and photographs. On the tables were a number of ancient deeds, books, coins, models, seals, and specimens of ancient pottery, glass, and jewelry. Mr. Pocock read a paper 'On Chertsey Abbey.'—Mr. Boutel one 'On a Description of a Series of Encaustic Tiles recently discovered on the site of the Abbey,'—and Mr. Corner one 'On an Anglo-Saxon Grant of Land made by Alfred the Great to the Abbey.' A promenade of the Members and their fair visitors led to Cowley House, dear to the lovers of old poetry as the residence of Cowley, and afterwards to the Abbey. A dinner and speeches closed the day.

Majesty, it seems, has heard of the success of the Mimes who lately gave a representation at the Olympic Theatre, and has intimated a desire—in such a case, a command—to see the cleverness and the eccentricities which have furnished so large a share of the small talk and pleasant gossip of London society. Next week the Mimes will repeat their play at Drury Lane: this time also in the cause of charity. Mr. Planché's 'Romantic Idea' will be followed by the pantomime. Whether the fun, which ran so fast round the benches of a small house, where every man caught up club allusions and personal phrases, will find itself at home in a larger house and a more public presence, we shall see. But with royalty in the front and the Wellington College in the background, we cannot doubt of a success worthy of the pleasant gentlemen who lend their services to amuse the town.

As we said some weeks ago would be the case, a portion of Burlington House—now public property—has been handed over to the Committee of the Fine-Art Contribution to the Patriotic Fund, and on Thursday last four noble rooms were thrown open to the public. London has therefore an opportunity of seeing the interior of its new property, as well as the pictures generously contributed by their authors towards this glorious endowment of the widows and orphans of British heroes.

Some curious particulars respecting the Bronte family, of which "Currer Bell" was the literary chief, are given in the *Belfast Mercury*. "They were natives," says our authority, "of the county Down. The father of the authoress was Mr. Patrick Prunty, of the parish of Ahadery, near Loughbrickland. His parents were of humble origin, but their large family were remarkable for physical strength and personal beauty. The natural quickness and intelligence of Patrick Prunty attracted the attention of the Rev. Mr. Tighe, rector of Drumgooland parish, who gave him a good education in England, and finally procured him a curacy in Wales. In his new sphere he was not unmindful of his family claims, for he settled 20*l.* per annum on his mother. Prunty was the name which the family bore in their own neighbourhood of the county Down. The patron of Mr. Patrick Prunty, disliking the name, requested him to take that of Bronte, from the fanciful idea that the Greek word *Bronte* would appositely signify the singular quickness and intelligence of his intellect. After Mr. Bronte had assumed the duties of his clerical office, he married, and the issue of that marriage were the three gifted women who delighted the reading world under the titles of Currer, Acton, and Ellis Bell. Of this triad, Currer was the 'bright particular star,' and her fictitious title of Currer Bell was not less revered by her readers than was her real name of Charlotte Bronte by her aged relatives in the county Down, to whom she presented very lately the sum of 120*l.*, with copies of her works."—Of course we must leave the responsibility of these statements to the local chronicler.

Herr R. Luther, of the Observatory of Bilk, near Düsseldorf, begins to rival the fame of our own Planet-finder. On the 19th of April, it is said in the German papers, he discovered a new asteroid planet of the eleventh magnitude.

Herren Ranke, Grimm, and Lepsius, have been elected members of the Royal Academy of Amsterdam. Mr. Macaulay has also been elected.

On Wednesday next, the 9th of May, it will be fifty years since Schiller died. The day, we hear, will be solemnized in almost all the more important towns of Germany; especially at Berlin a "*Todtenfeier*" in grand style is in preparation.—Another

jubilee, and one of a different character, will take place at Fulda in June next, when a thousand years will have elapsed since the remains of St. Bonifacius, the "apostle of the Germans," were buried there.

We observe with pleasure that M. Billault, Minister of the Interior in France, has refused to grant the permission requested by those speculators who wished, among the other summer shows of Exhibition-time in Paris, to establish there an arena for bull-fights.

The following has been received from a Correspondent in China—to whom we must leave the full responsibility of the views expressed about the "Rebels":—"The attempts which Sir John Bowring has lately been making in China to obtain copies of the ancient Buddhist works introduced into that country by a succession of Chinese travellers who visited Hindostan, and for many centuries continued to inundate 'the flowery land' with translations from the Sanscrit, have led to many curious incidents. Several places have been discovered where the blocks exist from whence the Chinese text has been printed;—the largest collection, consisting of many thousand volumes, being in Peking. The Buddhist monks at Kiaking, in the province of Kiangsoo, possess a considerable number of the blocks, and have been induced by the offer of liberal sums of money from Sir John Bowring, to print off some copies of various works he has caused to be selected. Not long ago, the priest, with whom Sir John has been in correspondence, was sent for by the Tartar General commanding in the district, to answer the inquiry whether he had sold books—the gift of the Emperor of China—to foreigners,—the blocks having been originally sent by one of the ancient Chinese sovereigns to the Monastery at Kiaking. The priest replied, that as the blocks had been deposited by Imperial favour, for the purpose of making known the doctrines of Buddhism to the whole world, he imagined that he, in assisting their distribution, was only giving effect to the gracious intention of the Son of Heaven. The excuse could not but be received; but an enemy of the priest who had endeavoured vainly to extort from him a portion of the money paid by Sir John Bowring, denounced the priest as a correspondent of Lang-sew-ping, — the Eastern King—a self-declared Holy Ghost, of the Tae-ping-wang movement, averring that he had seen, in the street, a letter addressed by the rebel monarch to the Buddhist priest. But the accuser failed in establishing the accusation, and the priest remained unmolested,—though, being the subject of suspicion, he is under the surveillance of the police. He is continuing to print the books purchased by Sir John Bowring; and this object is more interesting and important as the Nanking rebels destroy the libraries wherever they prevail. They will allow circulation to none but their own books, which are written in the most vulgar style, and an object of great contempt to the literary people of China. Indeed, were there no other impediment to the successful progress of the insurrection, and its final triumph, the utter absence of education in its leaders and followers would prevent its ever becoming popular among a people so proud as are the Chinese of their ancient sages and their sacred books."

More may be said on some future day concerning the state of the British Museum, as set forth in the annual Report, just laid before Parliament. For this week, however, two facts will suffice us. The acquisitions during the twelvemonth have been in every department considerable—in some important. For instance:—"In the manuscript department 906 manuscripts, 695 charters and rolls, and 18 seals and impressions had been added to the general collection; and 20 manuscripts to the Egerton collection; among the acquisitions more worthy of notice may be mentioned the official and private papers and correspondence of Sir Hudson Lowe, from 1799 to 1828, embracing the whole of the transactions in St. Helena; a collection of 60 original court rolls, and 350 charters relating to the counties of Sussex, Surrey, Norfolk, and Suffolk, extending from the reign of Henry the Third to the seventeenth century; a very fine copy of the 'His-

toria Miscella,' with the 'Historia Ecclesiastica' of Cassiodorus; an extremely fine copy of the French translation of *Crescentius*, executed for Charles the Fifth, of France, in 1373; some early Greek manuscripts, on vellum, eight Armenian manuscripts, on cotton paper, including a copy of the Gospels, and several scarce works in Hebrew, Samaritan, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Hindustani; a beautiful copy of the Persian poem 'Khawar Nama,' composed by Ibn Hassam, at the commencement of the fifteenth century, in praise of the exploits of Ali, son-in-law of Mohammed (written at Mooltan in 1686); the original Account-book of the privy purse expenses of Henry the Eighth, signed with his own hand throughout; an autograph deed of agreement of Spenser the poet; 17 autograph poems and letters of Robert Burns; 15 original letters of Fénelon; and an original charter of Eudes, King of France, executed in 888 or 889."—As a set-off to these and other gains to our national collections, it is stated, that "in every department the number of visitors has fallen off":—among these, be it noticed, not merely the sight-seers, whose "figure" may be decided by such facts as war or peace, commercial distress or prosperity, bad or good weather, but the number of those who repaired to Great Russell Street for the purposes of "study and research."

It is intended, we read in the German journals, to publish, in a judicious selection, the *Diaries of Count Platen*, which, ever since their author's death, have been in the hands of one of his most intimate friends. They fill twenty manuscript folios, and refer to the whole life of the poet, but mostly to his abode and his learned researches in Italy. The publication is looked for with anxious expectation, and will give, it is hoped, a fresh impulse to the subscriptions for the poet's monument.

The Report laid before the Zoological Society at its Annual Meeting seems on the whole satisfactory,—giving record as it does of losses and gains during a year of war and pestilence. If the number of visitors decreased during the past fatal autumn, the number of Fellows has been augmented; and the additions to the attractions of the gardens have been steadily carried on and carried out. Floriculture is, apparently, becoming an increasing object of care and cost in the Regent's Park; nor has architecture stood still. A strong house has been built for the hippopotamus, and the palace of the monkeys has been made more healthy by repairs and improvements. The health of the large and miscellaneous family of "furred and feathered creatures" (as Hood called them) has been on the whole satisfactory, the very unusual inclemency of the past winter considered. The family of the elands has increased, and the Australian bush-turkeys have a son and heir,—an important fact, since (according to Mr. Gould) the bird may probably prove as well worth naturalizing as those uncouth Cochinchinese creatures, the rage for which is somewhat going by. Lastly, the Aqua-Vivarium keeps up its strength and spirits; and this not altogether by aid of renewal, since the Report states that some of the original tenants of the tanks are still alive and flourishing. In short, there seems on every side tokens of increased care, and as much enterprise as may be prudent in our not very cheerful times.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, Trafalgar Square.—THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY WILL OPEN ON MONDAY NEXT, the 7th inst., at Twelve o'clock.—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 1*s.*

JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A. Secretary.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.—THE FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN, at their Gallery, 5, Pall Mall East, close to Trafalgar Square.—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 6*d.*

JOSEPH J. JENKINS, Secretary.

THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THIS SOCIETY IS NOW OPEN, at their Gallery, 31, Pall Mall, near St. James's Palace, daily, from 9 till dusk.—Admission, 1*s.*; Season Ticket, 1*s.*

JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

THE SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE FRENCH SCHOOL OF THE FINE ARTS WILL BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC ON MONDAY NEXT, the 7th inst. Daily, from 10 to 6 o'clock, at the Gallery, No. 121, Pall Mall (opposite the Opera Colonnade).—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 6*d.*

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION.—An Exhibition of the finest English, French and Italian Photographs is NOW OPEN at the PHOTOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION, 102, New Bond Street. —Mornings, from 10 to 3. Admission, with Catalogue, 1s. Evenings, from 7 to 9. Admission, 6d.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION. 14, Regent Street.—The Railway at Balaklava, Battle of Inkermann, Storm in the Black Sea, Battle of the Alma, Cavalry Charge at Balaklava, Pictorial Map of Sebastopol, &c., are now exhibited in the Diorama. Illustrating "Events of the War." The Lecture by Mr. Stoeckert, Daily at 3 and 8.—Admission, 1s., 2s., and 3s.

SIEGE OF SEVASTOPOL.—GREAT GLOBE.—All the New Approaches and Siege Works are placed on the MODEL of SEVASTOPOL, including Inkermann, Balaklava, and the Tchernaya, at the GREAT GLOBE, Leicester Square. Open from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. Admission, 1s. to the whole building. Children and Schools, Half-price. A large Collection of Russian Trophies from Bomarsund, &c.

MADAME TUSSAUD & SONS.—New Additions: Emperor and Empress of the French, Emperor and Empress of Austria, Marshal St. Arnaud, Lord Raglan, Omar Pasha, Sultan of Turkey, Emperor of Russia, Prince Menschikoff, &c.; Napoleon's Imperial Chamber, various relics, &c. Open from 11 A.M. till 10 P.M.—Bazaar, Baker-street. Admission, 1s. Napoleon Rooms, 6d. extra.

ZOOLOGICAL CONCERT.—LOVE'S ENTERTAINMENTS.—VENTRILOQUIST EXTRAORDINARY.—REGENT GALLERY, 49, Quadrant.—Every Evening at 8, except Saturday, Saturday, at 3.—Monday and Tuesday, Mr. LOVE, universally accepted as the first Dramatic Ventriloquist in Europe, will present his NEW ENTERTAINMENT, called "THE LONDON SEASON." Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the entertainment, LOVE IN ALL SHAPES, to be followed by a ZOOLOGICAL CONCERT, and LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST. Saturday at 3, LOVE IN ALL SHAPES, and other entertainments.—Pianoforte, Miss Julia Warman.—Stalls, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s.—Tickets at Mitchell's, 33, Old Bond Street; Turner's Music Depot, 10, Foultry; and at the Rooms, between 12 and 2.

THE GABERLUNZIE WALLETS.—Mr. ANDREW HALLIDAY'S NEW COMIC AND PICTORIAL ENTERTAINMENT, with New Songs and Original Music, by Mr. Leo Kerbusch, and numerous splendid Illustrations by an artist of eminence, will be submitted to the public on TUESDAY, May 5, at 8 o'clock, and every evening during the week, at Burlington Hall, Seville Row, Regent Street. Illustrations by GEORGE BICKLAND, Esq., of Cornet & Platon, Mr. M. Seaman. Vocalists: Mr. W. Adams and Mr. Charles Weston. Tickets at the Hall, and at the Libraries and Musicellers. Stalls 2s. 6d.; Hall 1s.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—PATRON: H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.—Monday Evening, LECTURE on the COMPASSATIVE ANATOMY OF THE EYE, by GEORGE PILCHER, Esq.—Thursday Evening, the 10th inst. DRAMATIC READING, by Mrs. CHATTERLEY, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.—Explanation of the ART OF POTCHOMANIE, by Mrs. MARSHALL, assisted by GEORGE BICKLAND, Esq.—SONGS AND SONG WRITERS.—LECTURES, by J. H. PETER, Esq., and by Dr. BACHOFNER.—NEW DISSOLVING VIEWS OF THE LATEST BATTLES, and of SINDBAD the SAILOR.—SPLENDID MOVING DIORAMA, depicting the PASSAGE from LIVERPOOL across the ATLANTIC, and embracing VIEWS OF THE CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.—STEAM GUN, COSMORAMAS, &c. &c.

SCIENTIFIC

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—April 26.—Sir B. Brodie, Bart., V.P., in the chair.—The following papers were read:—"Observations on the Ova of the Salmon," by Dr. Davy.—"On the Position of Aluminum in the Voltaic Series," by C. Wheatstone, Esq.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—April 30.—The Earl of Ellesmere, President, in the chair.—Viscount Brackley, the Hon. and Rev. C. Harris, Capt. Maclure, R.N., Dr. W. B. Baillie, and Messrs. D. J. May, R.N., R. O. Byrne, and T. F. Robinson were elected Fellows.—Sir R. I. Murchison explained the cause of the delay in the erection of the monument to the memory of Lieut. Bellot, which he said arose from the difficulty in procuring sufficiently large blocks of granite for the purpose. He next exhibited the drawing of the obelisk intended to be raised at the Quay at Greenwich, which he stated would be 32 feet high and 4 feet at its base. Sir Roderick, regretting that the monument had not been completed, more especially on account of the recent visit of the Emperor and Empress of France, was glad to announce that, after paying the cost of its erection, a surplus of about 1,500*l.* would be left for the provision of the five sisters of the gallant Frenchman, a portion of which had already been devoted to that object.—The President directed the attention of the Fellows to a number of beautiful sketches, bequeathed to the Society by the late Dr. Kirk, of the Bombay Army, made when engaged on the survey of the Red Sea, and when attached to the mission to the Court of Shoa, in Southern Abyssinia, under Sir William Harris; and also to an Atlas, by M. Jomard, of Paris, entitled "Les Monuments de la Géographie, &c.," exhibited by Messrs. Williams & Norgate.—The papers read were:—"Commercial Notes on the State of California," by Mr. G. Aiken, Consul at San Francisco, communicated by the Foreign Office.—Letter from Dr. Vogel to Consul Herman, dated Kuka, September 15, 1854, announcing his return from Mandara

without having heard of the Chadda Expedition, which was navigating that river from August 7 to October 20, and has since safely arrived here. Dr. Vogel intended to proceed to the Chadda river by way of Jacoba, but he was compelled to turn back at Mandara, by the chief of that country. His future progress is intended to be directed towards Lake Fitri, and the eastern side of Lake Chad; but in the event of obstacles being insurmountable, he purposes to direct his steps to the Niger, by way of Nyffi, and descend that river on his way to Europe.—Letter from Dr. Barth to Vice-Consul Gagliaffi, dated Kano, November 12, 1854, communicated by the Foreign Office. Dr. Barth disclaimed all desire of having his tomb prepared for him, as had been done by Dr. Vogel; on the contrary, he hoped, within three months, to be in Mursuk, on his return to Europe.—Letter addressed by Lieut. Richard Burton, of the Bombay army, to the Secretary, dated Aden, February 26, 1855. Lieut. Burton had just returned to Aden from his venturesome journey to Hurrur, in Abyssinia.—The fifth paper gave a detailed account of the recent earthquake at Brussa, in Asia Minor, addressed to the Earl of Clarendon, and communicated by his Lordship's direction to this Society.

ASIATIC.—April 21.—Lord Ashburton, President, in the chair.—Sir Moses Montefiore, Bart., was unanimously elected a Resident Member. The Director presented a communication from Sir John Bowring, containing some additional notices by Mr. Edkins of the Buddhist works carried from India to China, and translated into the Chinese language in the early centuries of the Christian era. Some notices of original Chinese works on Buddhism were added. Several of the translated works are still extant in Sanscrit, their original language, and have been partially examined by M. Burnouf. The Director also submitted a translated extract from the Memoirs of Hian Tsang, the Chinese traveller in India, which had been forwarded to him by M. Julien, of Paris. As mentioned in the notice of the last meeting of the Society, the Memoirs of Hian Tsang turn out to be in part translations of original Sanscrit documents. The extract now translated contains a notice of a sovereign named Mahira Kula, who inhabited a city named Cheka, on the banks of the Vipasa; and who had gained for himself the supremacy over the surrounding country. The violent character of this king excited a rebellion against him; and being driven from his country, he fled to Cashmere. Here he was received and protected by the King of the country; but, in the course of a few years, the refugee led a revolt against his protector, killed him, and occupied the throne in his place. After which he killed all the chief men of the kingdom, and destroyed the various monuments and establishments of the Buddhists.—Prof. Wilson remarked that the character given of the king, Mahira Kula, was quite in accordance with that found in the Raja Tarangini, the only real Sanscrit history yet discovered.—The Assistant Secretary read an extract from a letter of Col. Rawlinson, written at Babylon a few days before the departure of the Colonel, who quits his political duties, and is daily expected in this country,—where he intended to devote himself exclusively to the elaboration and publication of the immense stores of Assyrian and Babylonian learning which he has gathered in Mesopotamia. The intelligence communicated in this letter is of some interest to persons engaged in the investigation of Assyrian archaeology. A fragment of still another obelisk has been found at Koyunjik, with an inscription upon it in the hieratic character, like that on the Shamsaphul obelisk, and on Lord Aberdeen's black stone. Col. Rawlinson believes it to be a record of the Biblical King Belus; but, until the rest of the monument shall be discovered, nothing can be said of it decisively. A duplicate of the genealogical list, No. 70, of the Inscriptions published by the British Museum, has also been found, with two lines wanting in the published list. This gives the name of Tsulil, father of Belkapi. The Colonel is much inclined to believe that all the names in the list are in really direct succession; and not in a double line, as supposed,

though he admits that the point is open to doubt. A mound has lately been opened near Bushire, and very many bricks have been found, with Scythic legends. The only name the Colonel has found is that of Tirhakeh. A similar mound has been opened at Taurieh, the ancient Siraf, further to the south, and in this the bricks found have also Scythic inscriptions, proving the early Chushite or Ethiopian dominion over the eastern shores of the Persian Gulf, as it was in the days of Herodotus. A ruined city named Zerghul, which appears promising, has been discovered on the skirts of the Arabian desert. The Colonel's letter concluded with the very probable conjecture that the Shinar of the Bible is really Shin-ar, or Shih-nahar, the two rivers, the real Assyrian original name of Mesopotamia, which an Indian of this day would call by the exactly similar name, *Doo-ab*.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—April 23.—*Anniversary Meeting.*—The following were elected as Council:—President, The Earl Stanhope; Vice-Presidents, J. P. Collier, Admiral W. H. Smyth, and Viscount Strangford; Treasurer, F. Ouvry; Director, Sir H. Ellis; Hon. R. Cornwallis Neville, J. H. Parker, W. D. Cooper, Rev. T. Hugo, W. Tite (eleven Members from the old Council), H. Stevens, W. S. W. Vaux, the Right Hon. Sir R. Harry Inglis, S. Birch, R. Cole, N. Hollingsworth, H. Reeve, Lord Talbot de Malahide, W. M. Wylie, J. Young (ten Members of the new Council); Secretary, J. Y. Akerman.

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—April 25.—S. R. Solly, V.P., in the chair.—Three Associates were elected.—Mr. Patrick presented a small brass Medallion of Ignatius Loyola, represented in profile. The legend S. IGNAT. S. I. F. (Sanctus Ignatius Societatis Jesu Fundator) on the reverse, the sacred monogram within a rich circle.—Mr. Sherratt exhibited a Club from one of the islands of the Marquesas group, representing two nimbled heads, as in the instance shown at a former meeting.—Mr. Meyrick exhibited a rare and highly interesting specimen of the *Dague-a-roille* of the time of Edward the First or Edward the Second, found a few years in the Tower ditch. The old Saxon fashion of wearing a dagger on the opposite side to the sword was revived in the reign of Edward the First,—and this specimen from Mr. Meyrick's collection offers an example of the earliest type of this revival. Mr. Meyrick also exhibited a Fibula of yellow bronze, belonging to the later Roman period, found at Bioceter, in Oxfordshire,—a locality whence many Roman and Saxon remains have been procured. The fibula is in the shape of a harp, and the bow is beautifully wrought, and the spring of the acus curiously convoluted.—Mr. Syer Cuming exhibited the impression of an Ecclesiastical Seal, the matrix of which was discovered in 1854 in a stone coffin along with some human remains in digging up the site of the altar of St. John the Baptist,—a church which stood at the corner of Cloak Lane, and was destroyed in the Great Fire and never rebuilt. The seal is of the vesical form, and probably belongs to the fourteenth or the early part of the fifteenth century. The device is a *fleur de lis*, and around we read S. CRISTINE DE WERTINGG.—The remainder of the evening was occupied in the reading of obituary notices of members deceased during 1854, which had been postponed to this meeting from the Annual General Meeting, in consequence of the indisposition of Mr. Pettigrew. The notices contained various particulars relating to the members deceased and observations on the subjects of their several works. Those by the late Mr. Brayley, Mr. Patrick Chalmers, and the Rev. Dr. Whitaker excited interest, and gave rise to a discussion particularly relating to the peculiar Scottish sculptured stone monuments of Angus. A deserved tribute of respect was paid to the memory of the late Thomas Saunders, Comptroller of the City of London, for his zeal in effecting the restoration of the Ladye Chapel of St. Saviour's, Southwark; and the notices terminated with a well-deserved eulogy on the late President, Ralph Bernal, Esq., which gave rise to remarks upon his extraordinary collection of antiquities, now in the course of dispersion

by auction, in which Mr. Planché, Mr. Meyrick, Mr. Cruikshank, Mr. Pettigrew, and others took a part.

NUMISMATIC.—April 25.—The Lord Londesborough, President, in the chair.—Mr. Evans read a paper, 'On Coins of Cunobeline with the Legend TASCIOVANI P.', in which he called attention to the great variety of opinion which had existed among antiquaries with reference to the meaning of the word TASCIA, which, under various forms, more or less lengthened, is the usual legend of the coins of Cunobeline. Mr. Evans also mentioned one new, and at present unique, coin, which he has lately acquired, on which the legend was distinctly TASCIOVANTIS. — Mr. Pfister read a paper, 'On a Rare Coin of Berengarius the Second, King of Italy, A.D. 950-962.' The coin bears on the obverse the legend BERENGARIUS, and in the field, REX; and on the reverse, ALBERTVS R^s (the name of his son who was co-regent with him), and in the field, PAPIA. (i. e., Pavia, where the coin was struck). Mr. Pfister observed, that the character and form of the coin were almost identical with those of Hugo, King of Italy from A.D. 931-945, where the names of the father and his son Lotharius are, in like manner, placed on different sides of the coin.—Mr. Vaux read a paper, 'On Two Coins of Nineveh and Termessus, in Pisidia,' which had been lately procured by Mr. George Finlay, of Athens. The first, though not unique, is a very curious coin of Nineveh when a Roman colony, and bearing the name of *Niniva Claudiopolis*. On the obverse is the bust of the Emperor Trajan, and on the reverse an eagle with expanded wings, and the legend COL. AVG. FELI. NINI. CLAVD. The second is an unique coin of Termessus as a free state. The Greek inscription on its reverse has been abbreviated or blundered, but has been explained, by Col. Leake, to refer to the period when the right of freedom (ATTONOMIA) was conferred on the city by the Romans, A.U.C. 682, B.C. 72.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—May 2.—Mr. E. Carleton Tufnell in the chair.—Mr. Jelinger Symons, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, read a paper 'On Juvenile Crime as it affects Commerce, and the best Means of repressing it.'

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—March 30.—W. R. Grove, Esq., Q.C., V.P., in the chair.—'On the Application of Chemistry to the Preservation of Food,' by the Rev. J. Barlow.

May 1.—*Annual Meeting.*—The Duke of Northumberland, President, in the chair.—The Annual Report of the Committee of Visitors was read and adopted. It states that the contributions from members and annual subscribers in 1854 have been very satisfactory, as well as the receipts for attendance at the courses of lectures. The general income has exceeded the expenditure of the year by the sum of 795*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*; and the managers have been enabled, in addition to the annual investment of the accumulating funds, amounting to 184*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, to lay out 500*l.* in the purchase of 3*l.* per cent. consols, and to buy an Exchequer Bill for 100*l.* A list of books presented accompanies the Report, amounting in number to about 175 volumes, and making a total, with those purchased by the managers and patrons, of nearly 900 volumes (including periodicals) added to the library in the year. The following were unanimously elected as officers for the ensuing year:—President, the Duke of Northumberland; Treasurer, W. Pole, Esq.; Secretary, Rev. J. Barlow; Managers, W. H. Blaauw, Sir B. C. Brodie, Bart., J. B. Cardale, T. Davidson, G. Dodd, Sir C. Fellows, A. A. Goldsmid, Sir H. Holland, Bart., H. B. Jones, M.D., G. Macilwain, Rt. Hon. Baron Parke, J. Percy, M.D., Lieut.-Gen. Sir G. Pollock, A. S. Taylor, M.D., C. Wheatstone; Visitors, H. Browning, J. C. Burgoyne, J. R. F. Burnett, A. Crichton, H. W. Diamond, M.D., E. M. Foxhall, T. Hankey, jun. M.P., Admiral Sir T. Herbert, M.P., J. Hicks, J. Holdship, O. Morgan, M.P., R. R. I. Morley, J. North, Rev. C. Page, Rev. W. Taylor.

INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES.—April 30.—Charles Jellicoe, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—Two candidates were elected Associates.—'On the Valuation of Government Securities,' by E. J. Farren, Esq.—The author commenced by stating, that among the indirect advantages derived by the public from the establishment of insurance companies, might be fairly cited that of fostering a system of elaborate calculation so closely allied to the fiscal requirements of the age, that, allowing for hyperbole, the nation's finance minister might in the present day in some degree be characterized as the nation's Actuary. The proper valuation of Government securities in their balance-sheets was still, however, a vexed question amongst the profession, in consequence of the very different conditions under which national, as compared with private loans, were contracted. In ordinary cases, on good security, the principal was repayable intact, either under date, or under notice from either party. In Government loans, the right of giving notice was withdrawn from the lender, and a power of transfer substituted. The realization by perpetual annuities of his exact principal was thus no longer certain even to the first lender; for the transaction of transfer immediately became one of mere profit or loss between him and successive parties, whose wants and views might have been wholly artificial and temporary, and would have scarcely any reference to the nature of a pure loan, considered as a simple investment for principal at interest. If, however, the money was borrowed by Government on terminable annuities, the public loan then retained, according to its form, all the principal features of a commercial one, because the original money thus lent was *de facto* returned in substance to the lender, instalment by instalment; and could thus be treated as an ordinary matter of account, of half-yearly payments of part principal, part interest. The mechanical uniformity of the Income Tax on all annual incomes alike had upset this distinction between principal and interest as a matter of practice; and thus terminable, like perpetual annuities, no longer maintained the primary relations of exact repayment of principal, so openly insisted on in private transactions, but became a matter of profit or loss like other speculations. In dealing with this expectation of profit or loss on Government securities, actuaries in their valuations appeared to have instituted four different methods. The author referred to them under the names of the "purchase price," "selling price," "interest price," and "average price methods." His own opinion tended to a modified form of the last. He determined the average to be taken by the four terms represented by the price given, the price of the day, and the highest and lowest market prices that had occurred between the day of original purchase and the day of making up the valuation account.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

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| Mon. | Entomological, 8. |
| — | Society of Arts, 8.—Special.—Adjourned discussion.—'On Public Works for India.' |
| — | Royal Institution, 2.—General Monthly. |
| Tues. | Horticultural, 7. |
| — | Syrio-Egyptian, 7.—'Notes on Syria,' by Mr. Sharpe.—'On Nergal,' by Mr. Harle. |
| — | Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—Renewed Discussion 'On the Economic Distribution of Material in the Sides, or Vertical Portion, of Wrought Iron Beams.'—Description of the Landore Viaduct, on the South Wales Railway,' by Mr. Fletcher. |
| — | Zoological, 8.—Scientific. |
| — | Royal Institution, 8.—'On Voltaic Electricity,' by Dr. Tyndall. |
| Wed. | Royal Society of Literature, 4 <i>h.</i> |
| — | Society of Arts, 8.—'On the Manufacture of Steel as carried on in different Countries,' by Mr. Sanderson. |
| — | Graphic, 8. |
| — | Ethnological, 8 <i>h.</i> —'On some Remains of a Primitive People in the South-east corner of Yorkshire, with some Remarks on the Early Ethnology of Britain,' by Mr. Wright. |
| — | British Archaeological, 8 <i>h.</i> |
| Thurs. | Society of Antiquaries, 8. |
| — | Royal, 8 <i>h.</i> |
| — | Royal Institution, 3.—'On Christian Art,' by Mr. Scharf, jun. |
| Fri. | Astronomical, 8. |
| — | Philological, 8 <i>h.</i> —'On Nature Printing,' by Mr. Bradbury. |
| Sat. | Royal Institution, 3.—'On Electro-Physiology,' by Dr. Du Bois-Reymond. |

FINE ARTS

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.

The fifty-first Exhibition of this Society opened last week at the Gallery in Pall Mall with three

hundred and twenty-two pictures of more than ordinary merit.

Every gardener knows that what he calls "a good plum year" and what he calls a "good apple year" seldom go together, so unequal is nature in its gifts. It is much the same in Art: few Exhibitions are equally good every year. This spring, about the time of buds and flowers, the Pall Mall walls have bloomed with a cluster of works that, with all the freshness and promise of May, boast much of the riper perfection of the fuller summer. Mr. Gilbert is unusually picturesque, and in manipulation magical.—Mr. Haag original and broad.—Mr. Fripp poetical.—Mr. Richardson bright.—Mr. Branwhite calm,—and Mr. Callow pure.

We begin with Mr. Gilbert because his two pictures, *Shylock and Jessica* (No. 9) and *An Alchemist* (54), are almost the only works of real invention in the whole Gallery. The first, a scene from 'The Merchant of Venice,' represents the well-known subject of the Jew entrusting his keys, with many cautions, to the fair Jessica, while Launcelot watches them in the background. The whole is wonderful as a rich-coloured piece of mechanism; but every face seems to us a failure. Shylock's pale parchment physiognomy may contrast very well with the rich brown tones of his daughter's cheek, but Jessica is heavy and sensual; and Launcelot is not the smart Shakespearian youth, full of repartee, but a swinish lout, very thievish and very cunning. The drapery is bold, broad, Flemish, and flowing; but the colour is much impaired by Mr. Gilbert's method of using opaque streaks in the midst of deep transparencies. The 'Alchemist,' a picture still more masterly in the vigour and daring of its execution, has a peculiarity which it shares with its companion, that the head is the least finished parts of the picture. There is no sentiment or thought in the face or in the scene; yet we delight to wander over the tinted bricks of the furnace, the motley contents of the shelves, guess at the contents of the bottles, and study the old chemist, from the loose string of his dressing-gown and the duster hanging from his pocket, to the cork of the phial he holds in his hand. Mr. Gilbert's two other pictures, smaller, but running over with talent and an executive dexterity, which has grown into instinct, are *The Letter-writer of Constantinople* (136)—in which the white turban of the old scribe quite lights up the dark low room,—while the attentive spectators are full of character, hungry sallow opium-eaters and full-faced calm Mussulmans that remind us more of the Arabian Nights than the Turkish Deys;—and *The Stage Coach of the Last Century* (151), in which we see a ponderous vehicle travelling over a village bridge, while Uncle Toby, with cocked hat and broad cuffs, is looking out at window, speaking to some beggars who run behind.

Mr. C. Haag delights us this year with wild Montenegrin scenes, with matchlock men and beautiful peasant maidens. His *Montenegrin on Guard* (20) is a view of a mountain outpost,—the soldier leaning on his matchlock, and looking down into a ravine. The dress is picturesque, with the fringed plaid, the embroidered girdles and pointed buskins. But this, though deep-toned almost as oil, is a mere sketch compared with a *Morlack Bard singing the History of the Destruction of Salona* (65). The bard, with up-turned eye and extended hand, stands on the steps of some old palace beside a few pillars, all that remains to tell of old Dalmatian glory. His auditors of soldiers and citizens and maidens are grouped around him, some smoking and chatting, others listening with kindling look and burning heart. Nothing can surpass the "hard and soft" of this picture—its combination of breadth and touch, its firmness and tenderness of handling. The colouring is bright and warm, and the atmosphere pure, mild, and sunny. The *Head of an Armenian* (199) is grand in feeling, but not equal to the other pictures of this artist. A *Peasant Girl, Montenegrin*, (240) is a beautiful face. The costume, singularly picturesque, with its yellow and its red striking against the blue of the sky. The *Montenegrin Princess* (293) is a pretty child's head, with a sly and startled expression as if afraid of the artist's "evil eye." The coins of the head-dress

resemble scales of mail, and give a wild character of barbaric splendour to the large, frightened eyes beneath. *A Venetian Lady* (75) is a face of true Italian charm, the cheek just suffused with that tint of rosy twilight that fades away when the moon rises. This being might be a spirit, so idealized is the character of its beauty. In one picture alone Mr. Haag leaves Montenegro to visit the Highlands: we mean in *Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred returning from Salmon Spearing* (201). The likenesses are good, and the colour is mellow and deep. Prince Albert, grasping a salmon spear, is guiding his children over a cleft of rock,—one of them rides upon his shoulder, and another hurries on by his side.

We have seldom seen unostentatious and unaffected poetry thrown with greater delicacy and subtlety into a domestic scene—daily life is so easily vulgarized and so difficult to elevate—than has been done by Mr. W. Goodall in *Grandfather's Watch* (12). It merely represents a shrewd old labourer holding an enormous timepiece to his little grandchild's ear,—and yet there is such playful love in the old man's face and such innocent wonder in the child's eyes that it delights every one at the first glance.

Mr. Topham is thoroughly national in his Spanish scenes; but his *Andalusian Letter-Writer* (141) looks like the reverse of Mr. Phillips's picture of last year. There is the same grey, deaf old Spaniard, and the same pretty *muchacha*, with the addition of a sly bystander whose smile indicates the nature of the letter.

Mr. Jenkins, although somewhat melo-dramatic, is successful in his *Hopes and Fears* (266), from a certain vividness of contrast and some honest passion, which he has thrown into his work. The subject is a returning soldier looking through the window of his cottage at his wife, who is tearfully watching her child. The one figure is blue and cold in the moonlight; the other warm with the reflection of the fire. To our mind, there is a want of vigour and manliness about the soldier, who looks somewhat sneaking and burglarious. The scene is, however, natural, and must touch all who remember the terrible apprehension that sometimes clouds the joy of a return and shakes the heart with superstitious fears.

Mr. S. P. Jackson's four drawings are all good; his largest, *Vintagel* (72), the least so, as the contrast of colour in it is not wholly clear of harshness. But his *Coast of Devon, Evening*, (95) is charming. There is air in the firmament, there is distance on the water, and the fishing boat moves placidly but not tamely. Mr. Jackson's *Summer Day on the Coast* (186) has the heat and the haze of noon in an intensity without excess which has seldom been exceeded. The treatment of this fragment of shore scenery is as original and attractive as the first of those delicate down-landscapes which Copley Fielding was so often afterwards invited to repeat. We have seen little marine painting more unaffectedly true than the last-mentioned drawings, both of which justify the good promises made by us for Mr. Jackson some two or three years ago on his first exhibiting among the water-colourists.

Mr. F. W. Burton's *Peasantry of Upper Franconia waiting for Confession* (239) is among the drawings which are found most attractive this year,—not merely because it is by a new hand, but from the innocent and deep feeling which pervades the composition,—the truth to peasant-nature of the heads, and the richness (too chargeable, perhaps, with suffusion of tones) with which it is coloured.—A larger composition, also, of Franconian peasants in *The Cathedral at Bamberg* (181), is less happy, because more embroiled as a composition, is feebler in handling, but reveals quickness of observation and novelty of manner.

Of Mr. Stephanoff's umbrery mistakes we can venture to say nothing, and still less of Mr. Riviere's vulgar faces, that seem to have grown uglier and redder since they sat to him last year.

Mr. Hunt is in full bloom this year, with quite a school of ruddy boys, equally quaint and clear, but less hideous than usual. *Le Malade Imaginaire* (229) represents himself about to take medicine, and with one of the most grotesque faces we

have seen since Hogarth. It is singular how under all the distortion there seems to lurk a smile, which shows the actor. A little more vigour would have improved the execution.

Mr. Lewis is the same as ever,—flat, full of detail, and grey and creamy in colour. *The Well in the Desert, Egypt* (135), wants sun and brilliancy, and Oriental profusion of colour.

Mr. Alfred Fripp is poetical in his groups of Italian peasants, though rather vapoury and fanciful in colour. *A Woman from the Mountains of Subiaco* (110) is exceedingly original. No peasant woman was ever more fully employed. On her head is poised a cradle; her hands twirl a distaff, and her eyes are bent homeward. The face is beautiful, although, as in Mr. Fripp's faces in general, there seems a slight contraction about some of the features, and a feeling of atmosphere is allowed to unduly preponderate even in the colour of the flesh. *The Vintage* (133), clever as it is, is more careless than Mr. Fripp's other works. There is a want of abandonment in the dancing reaper, and a set air in the laughing lasses, who follow the banner of the Virgin and the sturdy sickle bearers.

Mr. F. Taylor is essentially the Cavalier painter. About all he does there is a gay, courtly abandonment, that makes him the Watteau of cocked hats, French hunting horns and flap waistcoats. He is in full strength this year; but still too sketchy and rough, and too fond of a neutral purple, with which he paints earth, horses and drapery indiscriminately. His steeds are full of motion,—his dogs of life and force,—his cavalier huntmen of polish,—and his ladies (Die Vernons generally) of arch gaiety. His *Stag-Hunt, Full Cry* (206) is bright with the gold lace and flowered coats of the Hanoverian race. His *Woodland Hunting* (311) is full of character, and reminds us of Scott's scenes with the Osbaldistons in 'Rob Roy.'

In landscape Messrs. Branwhite, Richardson, Callow, Fripp, and Nash bear the palm. Mr. Branwhite's marked manner is conspicuous in a *Pool of the Conway, North Wales* (26). The overhanging trees, dyeing the water green with their shadows, leave here and there in the clear deep water sapphire spots which the sky colours. Broken rock and feathery boughs fill the scenes that Mr. Branwhite loves to reproduce with Wordsworthian tenderness and fidelity. His object is not microscopism, but, without shunning labour, to produce the effect of nature with the least toil.

Mr. Callow contributes a rich collection of Continental scenes,—*On the Grand Canal, from the Leone Bianco, Venice*, (6), *Church of St. Pierre, Caen*, (36), *Mayenz, on the Rhine*, (43), *Oberwesel* (56), *San Giorgio, Venice*, (157),—all marked by his peculiar clearness and brilliancy of style.

Mr. Richardson delights us with some marvellous scenes of quite epical size and minuteness. One of the best of these is *Scene on the Black Mount, Argyleshire* (5); but the crown of all is the *Scene in Glencoe* (81),—remarkable for its leagues of distance, and its pines writhed and twisted by the storm that has reeled howling down these gorges.

Mr. W. C. Smith's finest picture is the panoramic one of *The Golden Horn* (190), in which we embrace at a view the Sultan's palace, the Genoese wall, the bridges of boats, the towers of Galata, a thousand mosques and minarets and dark spiral cypresses, and further than all the blue reach of sea, swept in by the golden shore, the great white barracks of the Soutari Hospital, and, beyond, the mountains of Asia,—presenting such a glimpse of two continents as would have made an Alexander's or a Caesar's heart leap for joy. In wonderful contrast to this work is a *Day in Windsor Park* (159); a quiet bit of woodland, with glimpses of sky, and full of that dreamy repose with which the majestic calmness of nature, always progressing yet never in visible motion, fills the meditative mind,—soothing the senses like the drowsy syrups of Egypt after the fever and turmoil of worldly life.

Mr. J. Palmer's *Dell of Comus* (73), though not delicate in colour, is a happy attempt to realize the revel that the prying shepherd oversaw.—Mr. Dodgson, true to his wonted taste, has some clever

seventeenth-century groups on battlements and terraces.

Mr. F. Nash is prolific in his contributions. *Ruins of Junieges on the Seine* (10),—*The Market-Place at Dieppe* (18),—*Kewick New Church* (40),—*Die Katz on the Rhine* (47),—*View in Arundel Park* (48),—*Rievaulx Abbey* (13),—*View of Brighton* (89),—*Windsor Castle* (92),—*Fountains Abbey* (93),—and many others show an artistic industry only equalled by the artistic talent.—Mr. Gastineau contributes *View near Magadeno, Lago Maggiore* (200),—*Dover Harbour* (222),—*Lock Lomond* (305),—*Narrow Water Castle, Ireland* (318),—and *Killicery Bay at Dublin* (321),—all fresh and vigorous in colour and execution.—Mr. W. Evans shares in the general improvement. His *Haymaking, Glen Tilt* (126), is better than usual.—Mr. Naftel and Mr. Duncan, with their Guernsey and sea-coast scenes, are remarkable for their force and freedom of style.—Mr. D. Cox still sends in his masses of drenched storm and grey skies; and Mr. W. Turner shows an advance in his art.

In passing through this Exhibition there can be but one feeling,—that of pleasure at the results of competition. There can be no doubt that if oil painting does not make a greater advance than it has done during the last few years, it will be fairly rivalled by its brother art. At present, water-colour painters for the most part confine themselves to landscape,—but Messrs. Gilbert, Corbould, and Haghe show them what may be done with the figure,—and we see no reason why High Art should not be as attainable by water as by oil. There can be no question that there is a certain demand amongst the rich for water-colour paintings, both as copies and for ornaments; and no good water-colour painting remains long unsold. English artists may soon enjoy an advantage unknown even to their Italian predecessors; namely, a public who shall be critically and technically conversant with the art they practise.

NINEVEH COURT AT SYDENHAM.

As the subject of the polychromatic decoration of the ancients is exciting so much of the attention of the artistic world at the present moment, I hope you will allow me to state as briefly as I can the authorities for the colouring in the Assyrian Court at the Crystal Palace, which has been condemned in such unmeasured terms by the writer of the article on the Crystal Palace in the present number of the *Quarterly Review*, and which was also questioned in your columns some time ago by Mr. Nasmyth.

Every one is familiar with the passage in Ezekiel describing the men of Assyria painted on the walls with vermilion; and the general impression derived from the Books of Esther, Daniel, &c. is such as would certainly lead us to believe that the Palaces of Assyria were brilliantly coloured.

The same is asserted by Herodotus, Diodorus, Josephus, and indeed all the Greek and Roman historians who speak on the subject. The seven coloured walls of Ecbatana were a more daring piece of polychromatic decoration than has since been attempted, and the fact that this was no fable has been most singularly confirmed by the last discovery of Col. Rawlinson. He found that the Birs Nimroud was a seven-storied temple, each story of which was coloured with one of the symbolical colours of the planets, one, for instance, was gold or gilt, one a fiery red, a third blue, and so on. A people who could thus colour a building 150 feet high and 300 feet square, were not likely to be alarmed at trifles in the way of coloured decorations.

The great and indisputable fact, however, is that almost all the slabs when first discovered were more or less coloured, and many of those in the British Museum, and nearly all those in the Louvre, do still retain traces of this colouring, even after all the scrubbing and cleanings they have undergone; not, perhaps, sufficient to enable us to restore every detail, but quite sufficient to prove that they were all originally painted.

There were, however, no slabs in Babylonia, and half, at least, of the rooms in the Palaces of Assyria were only plastered,—and even those which were

revêted with slabs in the lower part had plastered walls above; and these too were certainly painted. The coloured plates of Mr. Layard's two folio works, those published by Mr. Botta, and the specimens brought home by these two gentlemen, show how this plaster was painted, and prove uncontestedly, as far as I can judge, that the general style of Assyrian decoration was painted plaster, and the colouring generally more intense than that employed at Sydenham.

I may perhaps add, that the painting on the upper part of the walls in the large room at Sydenham and the archivolt of the arch at the back, are transcripts, as near as could be made, of paintings now on their way home to the Louvre, and which had, in the mean time, been most carefully drawn by the artist employed by the French Government,—the only difference being, that the colours of the originals were glazed, and therefore more brilliant than those employed here.

The argument that the relief is lost by colouring might be allowed to pass in England, where we are all striving to get the greatest possible amount of effect at the least possible expense. But if any one will only turn to the Egyptian Court, they will see at once how little such an idea prevailed in ancient times. The general effect of an Egyptian bas-relief is, that it is a painting on a flat surface. Yet, with scarcely an exception, every figure and every hieroglyphic is carefully counter-sunk into the wall, and every part of it carefully modelled; yet without one single exception, so far as I know, they were all painted afterwards, and we all know with what brilliant colours. Supposing it a mooted point, is it improbable that the Assyrians should do what we know was the universal practice of the contemporary Egyptians? The great difference between the two styles, it appears to me, was, that the Egyptians carving in intaglio, used a light ground,—the Assyrians employing rilievo, used a dark ground to give effect to their sculptures.

So far as I know, every one who has examined the buildings themselves admits that they were coloured. Those who have published restorative illustrations of their researches have coloured them as brilliantly as those at Sydenham; and the specimens brought home have been followed as literally as possible in the restorations at the Crystal Palace.

Against all this authority—historical, monumental, and personal—what have we? Certainly nothing in the *Quarterly* but the expression of the personal feelings of the writer of the article in question.

The question whether the colouring is in good or bad taste, is one the Directors of the Crystal Palace Company, or those employed by them, never, so far as I know, asked themselves. Their object was to reproduce the arts of antiquity with the utmost possible fidelity, and leave the public to form their own judgment as to the merits of the style. I, of course, can perfectly understand a person accustomed to the grey atmosphere of our climate, or the smoky dinginess of London, finding such decorations too brilliant for their enfeebled nerves; but under the glowing sunshine of the East, the case, I take it, would be widely different.

Again, let any one look at the gigantic limbs of the men strangling lions at the side portals, or the muscles of the five-legged bulls, their great wings and human heads, and he will admit, I think, that the character of the art was singularly bold and vigorous, not to say coarse and barbarous; and delicate patterns and subdued colouring certainly had no place in such a style. The men who used the chisel so vigorously handled the paint-brush in as daring a manner, and produced a style, to which the modern laws of criticism seem to be wholly inapplicable.

If the question of Colour should still remain an open one with the artists of the West, it is one which has long ago been decided in the East,—as the gorgeously coloured mosques and buildings of Isfahan, Teheran, and Tabreez can testify; and even at Agra and Delhi, ask any of the natives which of the ruined buildings of his ancestors he most admires, and he will turn to the "Chesna Mesjid" or "Chesna Ka Rozah," meaning

thereby those revêted with glazed tiles of the most startling brilliancy, and he will tell you these are by far the most beautiful; and in that climate it would be hard to say that he does not judge rightly.

With all these facts and inferences, I think it must be admitted that there is sufficient authority for the colouring of the Nineveh Court, and that it would have been absurd to attempt a reproduction of Assyrian Art without using a style of decoration at least as brilliant and intense as that employed at Sydenham. If, however, any one likes to assert that the taste of the Assyrian was bad, and their Art barbarous, that is a matter of opinion which I do not propose to discuss at present. Yours, &c. JAS. FERGUSON.

Langham Place, April 30.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—On Friday—yesterday—was held the private view of the Royal Academy. The pictures are as numerous as ever; but the Exhibition is not, as it should be, the best of the series. Some of our chief masters are entirely absent: others are represented by works of less labour and pretence than usual. The Forty are assuredly not so strong this year as is their wont, though they have contributed some remarkable pictures: we may instance Mr. Stanfield's 'San Sebastian,' Mr. Roberts's 'Rome,' Mr. Hart's 'Captivity of Eccelino,' Mr. Macclise's 'Orlando,' and Mr. Herbert's 'Lear.' Comparison and criticism we reserve until next week. One of the finest pictures in the Exhibition—painted in the true, as distinguished from the modern, Pre-Raphaelite style—is 'The Procession of Cimabue,' the work of Mr. Leighton, a young painter of twenty-four. This fine picture was bought by Her Majesty at the private view for 600*l*.—This evening the annual dinner will be eaten, and the usual speeches will be made. Perhaps Lord Palmerston, or in his absence some other Minister, will be gracious enough to tell us whether the National Gallery is still "under consideration."

A series of lectures will be delivered on successive Wednesdays, commencing on the 16th of May, by Signor Monti, on Ancient and Modern Sculpture.

To-day the Exhibition of French Pictures—so useful and so successful last year—opens for the second season. Next week we shall report on the character of the present collection.

The Oxford Museum Delegacy have resolved that it is desirable that the University should accept the tender of Messrs. Lucas & Son, of London, amounting to the sum of 29,041*l*. for the erection of a Museum according to the plan of Messrs. Dean & Woodward, approved by Convocation on the 8th of December last, modified in some respects with the approbation of the Delegacy. It will be proposed, in a Convocation held next Tuesday, to affix the University seal to a contract with Messrs. Lucas.

An architect who has addressed our readers before on the subject of this Oxford competition, and who writes with the authority of a wide experience, says:—

"Now that the competition for the Oxford University Museum has been brought to a close, and the building contracted for, I may, perhaps, be allowed, without risk of misconception, to direct your attention,—and through you that of the University and the public at large,—to certain points in its management, of which, I think, the competitors have a right to complain, though at the same time I gladly state my conviction, that every credit is due to the Delegacy for the desire for impartiality evinced by them, and that the errors in their proceedings have been the consequence of inadvertence or some similar cause. It was most unfortunate that, at the outset, no decision was arrived at, as to the style to be adopted, as such a decision would have spared the competitors much toil and anxiety, and would seem to have been specially called for, in reference to a place like Oxford, where discussions on Architecture and its numerous styles are apt to assume the semblance of party questions. There is, moreover, reason to fear, that matters foreign to the subject were imported into its consideration, and that preferences for particular styles have interfered with the due appreciation of the merits of the various designs. It will be remembered, that before making their final selection, the Delegacy chose six designs out of the whole number; and while it is creditable to their taste, that five out of these six designs had been favourably reviewed by the *Athenæum* and *The Builder*, it is also a remarkable fact, that the design selected for adoption has, up to the present moment, received no notice whatever from either of these periodicals. It is therefore especially to be regretted, that the designs were not submitted to eminent professional

judges, for a comprehensive report on their merits. Such a course, with its obvious advantages, was due to the University, as the best guarantee for a sound decision, and would have been a mere act of justice to the competitors, who had spared neither thought nor labour in the service of the Delegacy, who cannot be supposed to have possessed the necessary critical judgment for so difficult and complicated a task, as the selection of the best design out of the many sent in. When the Delegacy requested the opinion of two distinguished architects, whether any of the six designs could be carried out for 30,000*l*., another error was committed,—such a question being obviously one rather for a tradesman than a professional man; and this has been practically shown by the fact, that whereas the professional referees expressed the strongest opinion that none of the six designs could be executed for the sum named, a contract has been entered into with a London builder for the execution of the selected design for 29,500*l*.; while another of the six has likewise been tendered for at a similar rate. While, therefore, we must regret that such a mere question of *£. s. d.* should have been the only one submitted to professional judges, we have, I think, also much reason to complain of an opinion so discouraging to the competitors, so decided in its condemnation of their labours, and so erroneous in fact."

The Venetian Academy has been enriched by a legacy of thirty pictures, the gift of a lady of the city.

Mr. Baily's statue of the Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, of the fine proportions and artistic merits of which our readers have already heard, is now in Westminster Hall, preparatory to its erection among the other statues in the vestibule of the Houses of Parliament.

The Bernal sale has been brought to a close this week; some 10,000*l*. having been realized beyond the estimated value of the collection.

This is the prime of the year for water-colourists and their patrons. This day week, besides the two established shows in Pall Mall, Messrs. Foster & Co. were bidding all whom it concerned to a view of the collections of Messrs. Rowney and Foster,—and Herr Werner, a foreign water-colourist of some standing, opened his rooms that his drawings might be viewed. These are mostly of Italian scenes,—details of Venetian and Dalmatian architecture, executed with conscientious finish, not excluding effect,—and busy scenes of the Roman Carnival, the artist's *fête* at Cervaro, and like gatherings, touched with truth and minuteness, though elaborated so as to trench on a stiffness of which English eyes are impatient. The collections of Herr Hildebrand excepted, we recollect no water-colour drawings of foreign origin superior to Herr Werner's.

New churches rise daily. In one week we hear of one contemplated in the Westminster Road, one completed at Chippenham, another at Hoe, in Devonshire, and a third at Gallyhurst, in Lancashire.

A Correspondent, whose views we cannot altogether indorse, though we are willing to lay them before our readers, reverts to an original argument—very properly open to debate when, as Lord Palmerston says, "the whole subject of the National Gallery is still under consideration." He says:—"The common-sense question of a National Gallery is this. Can it give pleasure, amusement, instruction, and cultivate taste in amateurs, professors and the public? It may do this, if very superior works of Art constitute the collection; not a mere chronological and wearying succession of examples from various schools. The latter belongs to a Museum of Antiquities; the former to the purpose of information,—religious, moral, historic, artistic,—and to establish a fine taste, from which, the eccentricities of artists and the extravagant fancy of individuals cannot easily be tolerated. This might be done without a tedious history of the Art, as exists in the Gallery of Berlin, the least interesting to the public of all the galleries in Europe. That the National Gallery of Britain is not as perfect as it might be, results from a want of judicious decision in the purchasers of pictures for the collection. If Trustees fixed on six eminent artists and six distinguished picture-dealers to give their opinion on the work to be purchased, much information might be gained by the Trustees. The artists to give their opinion as to the excellence and the originality of the work: the dealers to state their opinion as to the master and the history of the picture. In both cases each individual should give his judgment in writing, and alone. This must prevent the recurrence of such mistakes as have

occurred. To place before the public and artists a bad work, is injurious to the tastes of the country and injurious to the reputation of the artist, for the picture may be a copy, may be ruined by bad restoration, and may impress the spectator with a very false notion of the master; for instance, look to the Perugino, the 'Magdalen,' by Guido, the 'Tribute Money,' by Titian, in the National Gallery. If such specimens only could be obtained, it is better to be without them, and but ordinary justice that the public should rest on the reported abilities of these masters rather than be led astray in their judgment by such bad examples, even if such pictures be original. The history of the art of painting, — that is, the progress of the art, is not the art itself; it is the art we want, to delight, to instruct, and prevent bad taste. To realize a great School of Art, it would be better to restrain than to extend the national collection; in this case, it would necessarily be small, but the public taste would not be distracted by various indifferent examples, so that at length the best works would be considered as the standard of taste, and all works would be referred to such a collection for comparison. This would instruct and form the artist, would assist the private collector, defeat fraud and imposition, with a certainty of gratifying the public.

"M. M."

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

MR. ALFRED MELLON respectfully announces that his SECOND GRAND VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT will take place, at St. Martin's Hall, on MONDAY EVENING NEXT, May 7, to commence at 8 o'clock, on which occasion Signor Bottesini will make his first appearance in England these three years, and perform a new Concertino on the Contra-Basso. Vocalists: Mlle. Louise Cellini and Mr. Sims Reeves. Pianist, Mr. F. E. Bache. Leader, M. Sainton. The band will consist of fifty of the finest living instrumentalists, and will perform during the evening Mendelssohn's celebrated Symphony in A minor, also Overtures by Beethoven, Weber, Auber, &c. Conductor, Mr. ALFRED MELLON.—Tickets, 1s, 2s, 6d, 5s, and 7s 6d. To be had of Mr. Mellon, 134, Long Acre; Cramer & Beale, 80, Regent Street; St. Martin's Hall, and the principal Music-shops.

MISS EMMA BUSBY'S SOIRÉE MUSICALE, NEW BEETHOVEN ROOMS, 27, Queen Anne Street, THURSDAY, May 10, Half-past Eight o'clock.—Vocalists: Miss Milner, Miss Joscelyn, Mr. Benson. Instrumentalists: Miss Emma Busby, Herr Molique, Signor Platti. Conductor: Mr. C. Selmauer.—Tickets, Half-a-Guinea, at the Music-shops, or of Miss Busby, 15, Upper Gloucester Place, Dorset Square.

SIGNOR and MADAME FERRARI beg to announce that their ANNUAL CONCERT will take place at the HANOVER SQUARE ROOMS, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 10, to commence at Eight o'clock. Vocalists: Miss Dolby, Madame Ferrari, Mr. Augustus Brahms, and Signor Ferrari; Misses Augusta Thomson, Banks, Hecke, and Favell (Pupils of Signor and Madame Ferrari). Instrumentalists: Mr. W. Sterndale Bennett, Mr. Aguilar, Herr Jansa, Signor Platti, and Signor Regondi. Accompanist: Signor Platti. Tickets, 7s, to be had at the principal Music-shops; Reserved Seats, 10s 6d, to be had only at Signor and Madame Ferrari's residence, 69, Upper Norton Street, Portland Place.

MISS P. HORTON'S ILLUSTRATIVE GATHERINGS.—ST. MARTIN'S HALL, every Evening, at Eight o'clock (Fridays excepted).—MR. T. GERMAN REED (late Miss P. Horton) and Mrs. T. GERMAN REED will present their NEW ENTERTAINMENT from Real Life, including English, French, and Italian Songs.—Tickets to be had at St. Martin's Hall. Stalls, 2s; Centre Seats, 3s; Admission, 1s.—Morning Performances every Friday, at Three o'clock.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—We doubt whether Handel's matchless 'Israel' has ever been performed so well in England as it was performed yesterday week by the Sacred Harmonic Society. To hear it in perfection, possibly, a double set of double choruses should be secured, since the two choirs are so largely employed, that only lungs of brass can be counted on for retaining a perfect intonation during the twenty-five choruses, which form the grand attraction of the work. Less Utopian is it to wish for solo singers, who besides being as vocally efficient as Mesdames Novello and Rudersdorff, Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, Herr Formes, and Signor Belletti were, should have studied the noble words of the Bible, as great actors study great poetry, and should feel the text as intimately as the notes to which it is set. The two foreign bassi were encoined deservedly, in 'The Lord is a man of war,' but the words of their verse in the hymn of triumph went for nothing.—Madame Novello's tones again, in 'Sing ye unto the Lord,' are superb, unparagoned possibly among sopranis; but the spirit of the prophetess with "the timbre in her hand" did not rise to her lips. The contralto and tenor were more equal to their high duties—yet, except the last two fragments of recitatives for the latter voice, neither of the two

has words so noble as those which we have specified. Mr. Sims Reeves, however, sang his *bravura* 'The enemy said,' with such power and brilliancy as to merit his *encore*. In the above longings for a still finer finish and higher aspiration, we have rather expressed our sense of the loftiness of the Oratorio, than offered censure on those who interpreted it. The entire work, we repeat—especially the delicate and difficult choruses in the second act—went better in tune and more steadily than we have ever heard it go before; to the credit "of all and sundry."

ENGLISH APPRECIATION AND ENGLISH TALENT.

—Those who desire to learn how Herr Wagner, like "a second Daniel come to judgment," has, at last, shown the ignorant Londoners which way music should go,—with further particulars of his unprecedented triumphs in this city,—are referred to certain American Art-journals, in which these facts and feats are gloriously chronicled, together with many hard and cutting things concerning wicked British journalists, who have been deaf to Herr Wagner's charming. In London, we have not heard of the success, neither witnessed any ovation. On the contrary, we continue to fancy and to fear that the evolutions of the "young German" *bâton*, diligently seconding the mismanagement of old English directors, are rapidly extinguishing such interest as might still, for awhile longer, have clung to the *Philharmonic Concerts*, in spite of the difficulty of varying the repertory for an audience among whom fastidiousness is cherished for religion. At the fourth Concert, it is true, a show of paying attention to native talent was made by repeating a Symphony, written some twenty years ago (as a contemporary reminds us) for the *Society of British Musicians*;—and in those days, by certain critics, like all the music there produced, "borne up to the skies" with raptures as loud as the American praise of Herr Wagner, and vitriolic contempt launched against those who refused to accept such exercises as revelations. Now, others besides ourselves, *à propos* of this very Symphony, are asking, what has that Society done for British composition?—why have so many men of promise there brought forward not advanced beyond the threshold of promise. Others, too, are beginning to reckon with "young England," for having stuck fast where it began, as a dependency of Germany.—Reasons may be found for this non-ripening of fruit that formed itself well, in the safe considerations which have led many English musicians to prefer the security of professorship to those more capricious chances of fortune which always attend creation. But there has been another influencing cause in the case in question: the advocacy of false praise, on the part of those who now own the necessity for qualification. What need was there, when A, B, and C. were indiscriminately hailed as our Mozart, our Beethoven, our Rossini, for A, B, or C. to work at self-improvement? How can it be wondered at, if, soured by neglect on the part of a public that was deaf to genius so loudly trumpeted, they retired into the silence of greatness unappreciated? The story has a moral full of meaning for artists as well as for journalists to come.

This week, too, the tactics which we have always recommended have been illustrated more variously than usual. The appeal in favour of Sir H. R. Bishop,—as our only national composer who still holds his public, and this after some twenty-five years of silence,—may be referred to here, as well as in another column: seeing that during some fifteen years of that quarter of a century the *Athenæum* was the only journal treating of music that referred to the composer of 'Bid me discourse,' and 'By the simplicity,' as more English, more individual, and therefore worthier, than all the home-made second-hand German composers, whose triumphs were so loudly heralded.—Tuesday, again, afforded us a concert-illustration of the honest certainty with which every good thing—whether foreign or English—will make its way, with or without puffery—which is germane to the spirit of these paragraphs. At Mr. Ella's second *Musical Union*, Mr. Cooper was leader, Mr. Carrodus second violin. Both played to the

entire satisfaction of an audience which is tuned up to a pitch of exclusiveness not the most favourable to fair construction. Mr. Cooper led with force, passion, spirit, and capital mechanism; Mr. Carrodus seconded him like a thoroughly-trained second, whom experience should make a capital first. Yet both these artists happen to be English, and both have made, and are making, their way quickly, without any pains having been taken, save what the two themselves have taken by labour and preparation, to bring themselves forward.

Mr. W. S. Bennett's *Third Soirée*, held on Tuesday evening, with one of the most crowded audiences ever assembled in the Hanover Square Rooms, would furnish us with further text for "improvement" in the matter of English appreciation and English talent, did we not feel that, even in a sermon on Self-help, the preacher must not become prosy. That a man will end where he has placed himself, not where others place him, is a truth that cannot be too deeply pondered,—but its exemplification must not be worn threadbare. Suffice it to say, that the programme was well varied, including, among other specimens of interest, a Romance by Mozart, and a *Rondo* from the 'Invocation' Sonata, by Dussek,—but including no new composition by the Concert-giver more important than an elegant setting of a song by Barry Cornwall. Mr. Bennett, however, was playing in his best manner, with that animation and clearness of finger which we have sometimes missed in him.

Strangely long as this notice will seem to those who love to bemoan the neglect of English talent, and who have neither considered its deficiencies nor allowed for its progress,—we have still to add, in emendation of a remark made last week, that good chamber-music is being given in new places, and under new auspices,—by Mr. Willy, in St. Martin's Hall, and by Mr. Cooper, at the rooms in Queen Anne Street.—We can merely further name Mr. Harold Thomas as among the Chamber-Concert-givers.

Another English performance—of Anthems and Sacred Music, including an extract from Sir F. G. Osseley's 'Martyrdom of St. Polycarp,' was given on Thursday evening at the Hanover Square Rooms.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—The stilted 'Ernani,' of Signor Verdi, was repeated this day week, with Madame Bosio as *Elvira*, Signor Tamberlik as the hero, and Signor Graziani as *The King*. The Lady sings her *cavatina* brilliantly, and smiles through her part with great amenity; but she has not the weight or the passion which alone can carry off the strained writing of Signor Verdi. The new *baritone* possesses one of the most mellifluous voices with which mortal was ever blessed; but he has much of the singer's art to learn, as regards accent, *verve*, and the power of advantageously displaying his rare gifts. Perhaps, like Madame Bosio, he may profit by his being compelled here and in Paris to study other music and another manner of execution than such as warm and enchant a public in Italy. Time merely increases our conviction that, in England and France, the operas of Signor Verdi only pass because there is nothing else, and that the first more elegant and gracious Italian composer who arrives can sweep them away to the limbo of forgotten frenzies. We are more and more satisfied that the progress of music is not of necessity a progress in exaggeration.

SADLER'S WELLS.—Our expectations of the success of the Adelphi drama at this house were realized on Monday and Wednesday. 'The Green Bushes' and Molière's 'Tartuffe' both attracted good audiences. Opposed in nature and structure, no two productions could be marked by broader differences than these distinguished examples,—one of the classic, the other of the ultra-romantic play. But of both the intrinsic merit is indisputably great; and it were to affect most idly the character of a purist to contend in such cases exclusively for form or treatment. Let the drama vary as much as possible in both,—the number of acts may stretch from one to seven,—

the subject may be "tame and domestic," or "wild and majestic";—where genius is present, the utmost licence in these respects may be readily permitted. One of the works before us is a translation; but then it is of a *chef-d'œuvre*,—a copy of an old master, made by a most competent hand (Mr. John Oxenford),—not the hasty transference from foreign boards of some trifle of the hour, by which the native author is a loser, and the native stage no gainer; a class of piece, in fact, well recognized at all times in our dramatic literature as a legitimate aid to, not as a substitute for, original talent. Nations in this, as in other arts, may properly learn from one another by the mutual study and appreciation of their greatest works; but to live by the constant copying of foreign products, however wanting in excellence, if not wanting in popularity, were degrading to any country. Madame Celeste in *Miami* proved to be in a high state of efficiency, and acted with uncommon vigour and pathos, as if ambitious of teaching the Islington audience that there were actors beyond that famed theatrical village, and other walks of histrionic art besides those to which the former had been accustomed. She manifestly aimed at a triumph, and attained it. With Mr. Webster the case was different. In *Tartuffe* the actor was on the usual level of the place; with him, it was a matter not of contrast, but comparison. The power and finish of his performance in this especial part left him nothing to apprehend; and his assumption was marked by all his usual point and ease. Nor did the audience fail to appreciate the excellent art by which this difficult character was illustrated.

SURREY.—While Mr. Webster is acting at the Wells, we find Mr. Phelps transferred for a week or two to the boards of the transpontine theatre, performing *Othello* and *Iago* alternately with Mr. Creswick. The result has been a smooth and efficient performance of the tragedy, highly to the credit of both actors. *Brutus* and *Cassius* have been underlined for the same kind of alternate illustration.

STANDARD.—"Macbeth" has been added to the revivals at this house; and has given us the opportunity of witnessing Mr. Marston in the character for the first time. Though somewhat deficient in compass and weight for the complete impersonation of the usurping Thane, there was so much elegance in the general movement that we came away with a higher opinion of Mr. Marston's capacities for the support of leading parts than we had previously entertained. We may add, that the audience were thoroughly satisfied, and insisted on the performer receiving a final ovation. Miss Glyn's *Lady Macbeth* was rendered with her usual vigour. Some points were indeed made with a rapidity and brilliance entirely new to us, and for which we were exclusively indebted to the originality of the *artiste's* genius. The house was crowded.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—The following obliging communication has been received.—"In your 'Musical Gossip' of Saturday last you ask if 'any friend or enemy' can tell you something concerning Louis Böhner's *Concerto*, No. 5. Though I do not presume to style myself either the one or the other, perhaps my communication will not be the less acceptable. Some years ago I found, after some unsuccessful hunting, an old copy of the *Concerto* in question at Klemm's, the music-seller, in Leipzig, and I convinced myself that there are certainly some ideas in it which occur also in 'Der Freischütz'; but in the latter work they are, as one might expect, infinitely more beautifully applied and developed. Thus, for instance, at the beginning of the first movement of the *Concerto*, which is in a major, in the orchestral introduction, occurs the universally known melody of the *Vivace, con fuoco*, in *Agatha's* great aria, bar 12; but Böhner has only four bars of it with a hackneyed conclusion. I remember also that several years ago there was a dispute upon this subject in the *Allgemeine Musikalische Zeitung*, in which Böhner asserted that he had

written his *Concerto* before 'Der Freischütz' was composed, and that Weber was acquainted with it. Others believe—and Dr. Hand also expresses this opinion in his 'Aesthetik der Tonkunst'—that Weber, as well as Böhner, adopted those melodies from national songs. I, however, doubt this being the case, as I have never met with the melodies, though I have always taken much interest in collecting national songs, and am acquainted with most of the published collections. —If I am permitted to add a few words about Gluck's *ballet*, 'Don Juan,' I must confess that I am at a loss to account for the origin of the supposition, so often put forth in musical papers, that Mozart for his 'Don Giovanni' has pilfered Gluck's *ballet*. If such very slight resemblances—as for instance, the piece, No. 5, in the *ballet* with Mozart's *duel-scene*, or the piece, No. 21, with Mozart's *minuet*—are considered sufficient evidence to justify a verdict of guilty, which composer can hope to escape being convicted of larceny? Not Mozart only, but Gluck himself, has drawn from the *ballet* of 'Don Juan,' as may be seen in 'Armida,' 'Iphigenia in Aulis,' and 'Orpheus,' and of which you undoubtedly are aware.

"I am, &c. CARL ENGEL."

It does not rain so much as "pour" opera speculations just now. Besides what is going on in Covent Garden, Drury Lane, the Haymarket and the Strand, where Miss Rebecca Isaacs keeps alive a sort of *guerrilla* opera, the Lyceum Theatre now bears on "its frontispiece" an invitation from Madame and M. Thillon to the public, to come and see the Lady take leave of the stage in a series of representations. We cannot suppose that Madame Thillon, in these, professes to take leave of public life; since, though time is time, her time of retreat should not yet have arrived. Meanwhile, these openings and shuttings, these extra playings, singings, and "starrings" (rendering discreet and deliberate preparation impossible, and spoiling every opportunity for which a composer might hope) belong to a state of manufacture—not of Art,—of imperfect civilization, or else of "decline and fall." While they rivet every conviction we have and hold of the existence of a public in England for opera, they adjourn our hope of seeing any establishment of opera in English deliberately and permanently accomplished here. The materials are not wanting, but organization and purpose are.

The Musical Festival of the Lower Rhine for 1855 will be held at Düsseldorf, and commence on the 27th of this month. — Among the principal compositions announced are, a Symphony by Herr Ferdinand Hiller, Haydn's 'Creation,' Mendelssohn's Overture to 'Meerestille,' Dr. Schumann's *Cantata*, 'Paradise and the Peri,' and Beethoven's *c minor* Symphony.

Not to interrupt the thread of an argument, we must here state that at Mr. Ella's *Musical Union* on Tuesday last, M. Halle performed Beethoven's *Sonata Pastorale* in his best style, — thereby proving in the most welcome of fashions his complete recovery from the late serious accident to his left hand. — Signor Bottesini has arrived from America, and is promised for Mr. Ella's next meeting.

Among other arrivals for the season may be mentioned that of Mrs. Escott, the American Lady, who has, we have more than once mentioned, sung during a season or two at Naples in light opera with success. — Madame Fiorentini has, also, returned to the Old World.

The 'Te Deum' of M. Berlioz, which was to be performed in the Church of St. Eustache at Paris on Monday last, is described as unique in its combination. There is in it only one *solo* part for the tenor, — with two choirs of three parts (which in Paris were each to consist of one hundred voices); and, in addition to these, five hundred children singing in unison a *corale* or theme, which re-appears throughout the hymn of thanksgiving. The idea of this last effect was probably suggested by our yearly exhibition in St. Paul's, which has moved and interested every musician who has heard it in no common degree, as M. Berlioz himself has testified. Further, whereas the orchestra and choruses are to be arranged in the choir of the

church, the great organ, placed above the grand entrance, is to be employed also, as an integral and important feature. Are peculiar combinations like these to be often, to be ever again obtained? If they cannot, it is to be regretted that a composer should have spent so much leisure, pains, and calculation in assembling them. The 'Requiem' of M. Berlioz, supposing its musical value ever so great, is virtually shut from the public by the vastness and peculiarity of means demanded for its execution. It would be a pity should his new 'Te Deum' be called on to bear his funeral service company.

The other musical news, from Paris, is not very important. Those who are familiar with the tune of the French "trumpeters" may form their own speculations as to the probable chances of Signor Verdi's new work, 'Les Vêpres,' at the *Grand Opéra*, from observing the amount of preliminary stress laid on—the *ballet* which it is to contain. —The *Historical Concert* given, by M. Féis, the other day, as first of a series, seems not to have attracted a large audience, nor the music to have been well executed. The latter, indeed, was hardly to be expected, since no magic can initiate the imperfectly trained singers and musicians of our day into the difficulties and peculiarities of elder Art.

New attempts to extend the province and to vary the forms of music continue to abound. M. Offenbach, we perceive, the graceful violoncellist and composer, has been offering at his concert a 'Décaméron,'—this being a Neapolitan legend of the 'Grotto Azurra,' told in verse by M. Méry, and alternately recited and sung by ten ladies.

Yet another memoir of Mozart, by Herr Jahn, is announced as in preparation, with new correspondence. When shall we hear of a *first* biography of Weber, whose life we have been often told in its vicissitudes, of which record was kept by him, furnished ample material for such a book!—when of one of Mendelssohn?—While we are on the subject of musical and dramatic memoirs, it may be stated that the MS. diaries of M. Joanny, who for many years was "père noble" at the *Théâtre Français*, were the other day disposed of at an autograph sale in Paris. An extract from these published in *La Presse*, journalizing the production of M. Victor Hugo's 'Hernani,' in which M. Joanny created the part of *Silva*,—the fierce controversies of which that play was made the subject, and the nightly contests for and against among the audience,—seems to indicate that a pleasant chapter of theatrical anecdotes, if not a book of theatrical memoirs, may be looked for among these papers left by 'le vieil Horace.'

Among other events of the week must be mentioned the sale, by Messrs. Puttick & Simpson, of some musical books and manuscripts, among which a few curiosities were to be found; with them a renowned Stradivarius violin, which brought the high price of 200*l.*,—and the well-known violoncello of the late Sir W. Curtis, the latter disposed of for 100*l.* From this, as well as from the Bernal sale, and the picture-auctions of the spring, it would appear as if the pressure of the war had not yet reached amateurs and Art-collectors.

Mr. Albert Smith's thousandth Ascent of Mont Blanc was sung and said this week. It may be doubted if any entertainment ever before ran its thousand and one nights in the same place. But the public for pleasures of this sort seems to be on the increase. We are told, and not by the speculators themselves, that money is turned away from Miss P. Horton's medley at *St. Martin's Hall*. — Mr. Woodin announces another entertainment; while for those who love to hear great plays read, in despair of seeing them thoroughly acted, Mrs. Chatterley, like Mrs. Kemble and Miss Glyn before her, is taking up her book, and preparing to make the tour of the "Institutes."

An English company, under the direction of Mr. James Wallack, is about to proceed to Paris, and will, it is said, commence a series of dramatic performances on the 21st inst. at the *Théâtre Ventadour*. — Mr. C. Mathews, and others of his *Lyceum* Company, have engaged themselves with Mr. Smith at Drury Lane, to appear there in Autumn.—Mr. C. Mathews, to act as stage manager.

M. Janin has hardly ever been more bitterly civil, or more civilly bitter, in his *feuilleton*, than while praising, with faint condemnation, a new comedy, 'Pérol en la Demeure,' by M. Feuille, which has just been produced at the *Théâtre Français*.

MISCELLANEA

Paris Exhibitions.—An official publication states that the idea of a French Exhibition of Arts and Manufactures is due to François de Neufchâteau, Minister of the Interior, who organized the first Exhibition, in 1793, which took place in the Champ de Mars, and was inaugurated with much pomp and solemnity. On that occasion there were 110 exhibitors, and 26 medals awarded. The following table shows the dates of the succeeding Exhibitions, with the number of exhibitors and medals awarded.

Exhibition.	Exhibitors.	Medals awarded.
1801.. Second	230	69
1802.. Third	540	119
1805.. Fourth	1,422	119
1819.. Fifth	1,662	360
1823.. Sixth	1,648	470
1827.. Seventh	1,795	425
1834.. Eighth	2,447	697
1839.. Ninth	3,381	807
1844.. Tenth	3,919	1,258
1849.. Eleventh	4,500	2,172

—Such was the progress of the Paris Exhibitions, which have been hitherto limited to national arts and manufactures. The Exhibition about to open will not be confined to the products of France, and it is expected that the total number of exhibitors will amount to upwards of 20,000, of whom 8,000 will be French, and these numbers would be higher if the space in the Exhibition building were greater. The total superficial area for exhibition purposes in the new Paris Exhibition buildings is 95,000 metres, which is 2,000 more metres than our Crystal Palace in Hyde Park contained.

Authorship and the Post-Office.—Now that a reduction in the postage of books is in contemplation, a case bearing upon the question which came under my notice may serve to indicate some of the advantages likely to be derived from the Government measure. A young friend, who by long study had mastered a difficult subject, was induced to communicate the results of his experiences to the world. With some effort and personal sacrifice he produced a readable book,—may, public critics pronounced it well written. How to get the thing into circulation was the next question, for the theme being of special rather than of general interest (spite of commendations), the book did not sell. It was offered to the public, and the public declined to buy it. The next proposition was to give the book away. It was thought that if it could be put into the hands of those for whom the subject had undoubtedly interest, reward and professional advancement might yet await the author. But here the postal difficulty presented itself. Two or three hundred sixpenny stamps might be a small matter, but yet sufficient to drain the purse of a poor author,—and in consequence the books still remain in hand. Reduce the rate of postage and many a young writer in like circumstances will be enabled to secure that publicity and attention indispensable to success; for in proportion to the expense will he be in a position to circulate his productions among provincial reviewers and the artistic and scientific people scattered over the empire; and then in the event of failure and loss it will be some solace to the writer to know that his work has at least had some sort of chance to make its way in the world. Nor would the advantage rest altogether with the author. Men of position in the State, official or scientific, requiring intelligent assistants, would by the same means get to know where young men of promise might be found, and at the same time become acquainted with views which they might otherwise never hear of.

I am, &c.
H. M.
1, Woburn Buildings, Tavistock Square.

Paris Municipal Library.—The Library of the Hôtel de Ville has just had classified the political and historical manuscripts which were bequeathed to it by M. Thouré, Member of the last Constituent Assembly. A number of manuscripts relative to Dramatic Art, and particularly to the French Opera and the *Théâtre Français*, bequeathed some time back by M. Baffara, Commissary of Police, have also been arranged, and may now be consulted by the public. About 5,000 volumes on the policy, history, geography, &c. of the United States, have been placed in two special rooms, which are to be thrown open to the public at the commencement of the Exhibition. The total number of volumes in the City Library is at present about 70,000; and amongst them are many relative to the history of Paris and of ancient France.

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